



For Immediate Release:

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News Release

GEMA/HS Continues Relief, Recovery Operations in Georgia

(ATLANTA) – Since before Hurricane Michael hit Georgia, the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency and its partners have worked tirelessly to provide critical resources such as shelter, food, water, public utilities and other essential services for those threatened and impacted by the storm.

Initial damage assessments conducted by GEMA/HS staff and local emergency management agencies immediately after the storm contributed to timely disaster declarations. Public assistance was declared for 31 Georgia counties, with 13 counties also receiving declarations for individual assistance. The counties who qualify for individual assistance are Baker, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Miller, Seminole, Crisp, Grady, Lee, Mitchell, Terrell, Thomas and Worth. More than 14,000 people have contacted the Federal Emergency Management Agency for **individual assistance** since the declaration. GEMA/HS, in coordination with FEMA, continues conducting assessments, which provides the ability for additional qualified counties to be added to the declaration.

The agency has coordinated the distribution of more than 1.8 million meals and 50,000 tarps supplied by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in addition to 21 mobile feeding stations and 12 points of distribution with the capacity to serve 30,000 meals per day. The location of current food and water distribution sites are posted at gema.ga.gov.

The top priority in the response and recovery efforts continues to be safety, food and water with more than 32,000 residents still without power. Crews have restored power to more than 427,000 residents in the week following the storm. Further, all hospitals and nursing homes across the region are now off generators and running on normal power supplies.

Communications continue to be restored with all 17 911 centers knocked offline by the storm are now fully functional and operating on normal power.

All state routes are now open thanks to the efforts of the Georgia Department of Transportation, Georgia Forestry Commission, Georgia Department of Natural Resources and other partners working diligently to remove debris and power lines.

More than 400 FEMA staff are deployed to Georgia, and Disaster Survivor Assistance Teams are in the field helping people apply for assistance. FEMA and GEMA/HS are also in the process of opening disaster recovery centers where those eligible can apply for individual assistance.

GEMA/HS will continue their response and recovery efforts to citizens and our partners who are deployed in support of operations. Survivors in the declared counties can apply for assistance by visiting www.disasterassistance.gov or calling 1-800-621-3362. For a more comprehensive list of resources, visit gema.ga.gov.

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