

May 9, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Residents of Cumberland and York Qualify for Direct Storm Aid**

AUGUSTA – Governor John Baldacci learned today the residents of York and Cumberland counties who were affected by the Patriots’ Day Storm can qualify for direct federal assistance.

“For families and businesses in York and Cumberland counties that were hurt by the Patriots’ Day Storm, this is great news,” Governor Baldacci said. “It means that people can get federal help for damage that isn’t covered by their insurance. This will make a real difference as they work to recover from the storm.”

Twelve counties in Maine have qualified for federal assistance to make repairs to public property, such as roads and bridges. To date, only York and Cumberland counties have qualified for individual assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The federal assistance may be used for temporary housing, repairs and for disaster-related expenses not covered by insurance or other assistance programs.

FEMA assistance does not typically cover the entire cost to repair storm damage. For people with insurance, the aid may help pay for basic needs not covered by insurance.

FEMA's assistance for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, an applicant must complete an SBA loan application to be eligible for assistance that covers real estate, business losses, personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.

Individuals can begin the application process by calling 1-800-621-3362; 1-800-462-7585 (TYE). Individuals can also register at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

“It’s important for people to apply for assistance even if they have insurance claims pending,” Governor Baldacci said. “The only way to know for sure if they qualify for assistance is to apply.”

## **Homeowners, Renters and Businesses Urged to Report Storm Damages**

April 26, 2007

10:00 AM

AUGUSTA, MAINE -- The Maine Emergency Management Agency is asking homeowners, renters and businesses owners who have sustained uninsured damage from the Patriot’s Day Storm to report that damage if they have not done so already. The State

is assessing the overall impact of the storm to individuals and businesses, both to report to FEMA and to assess the need for other services.

“It’s crucial that people report damage to their homes and businesses,” Governor John Baldacci said. “We need to gather as much information as possible about the extent of the storm’s impact.”

It is not necessary to know the dollar amount of the damages; at this point officials are interested in how many homes and businesses were affected. “When in doubt, report,” says MEMA Director Robert McAleer. “We need to know the level of need that is out there.”

This reporting is informational only and does not in any way register residents and businesses for future assistance should it become available. Those who have already reported do not need to do so again.

Damages could take the form of flooded electrical equipment, such as water pumps, washers, dryers and furnaces, flooding of basements in excess of surface water levels and damaged wall boards and living areas in basements. Renters may also report loss of personal property.

Businesses are also asked to report significant loss of business because of the storm. This could be as a result of a loss of retail trade, inability to ship product, inability of employees to report, etc.

It is critical to obtain this information to determine if any counties affected by the storm have sufficient damage to receive Federal assistance for individuals and businesses. Yesterday the Federal Emergency Management Agency announced a disaster had been declared for damage to public property in six Maine counties. Joint federal/state assessments in seven additional counties are ongoing, to give FEMA the information they need to make those counties eligible for disaster assistance.

Residents and business owners should report damages to:

York County: 324-1578

Cumberland County: 1-877-372-7363

City of Portland online reporting: <http://www.portlandmaine.gov/>

All other locations: Your town office or local Emergency Management Director

Saturday April 21, 2007

## **YORK COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

5 Swetts Bridge Road  
PO. Box 399  
Alfred, Maine 04002  
207 324 1578  
ema@co.york.me.us

**PRESS RELEASE**

The York County Emergency Management Agency in conjunction with Maine Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency is working hard to locate primary residences that have sustained damage from the Patriot's Day Storm. This could take the form of flooded electrical equipment, such as water pumps, washers, dryers and furnaces, flooding of basements in excess of surface water levels and damaged wall boards and living areas in basements. Damages not included are trees and shrubs in yards, driveways, out buildings and pools.

It is critical to obtain this information to determine if York County has sufficient damage to receive Federal assistance for individual assistance to home owners. Without this information, FEMA cannot make a determination as to the actual extent of damage. Currently, we have not yet reached the threshold that would allow for federal assistance to individuals.

To assist in this crucial process, York County EMA has established a process where by York County residents may call to report damages starting Monday, April 23, 2007 through Wednesday, April 25, 2007 from 9:00 AM until 8:00 PM by calling 324-1578.

Should you believe you have damage, please contact York County EMA.

This process is informational only and does not in any way register residents for future FEMA assistance should it become available.

Media questions:

Contact York County EMA at 324-1578  
Contact person: Bob Bohlmann or Joyce Kelley

## Maine State Housing to Offer Low-Interest Recovery Loans

April 20, 2007

Governor John Baldacci has announced that the Maine State Housing Authority will be offering low-interest loans for families whose homes were damaged or destroyed by the Patriots' Day Storm.

“This program was created to give families a fast response, to make money for repairs available as soon as possible,” Governor Baldacci said. “It’s difficult to comprehend the damage some areas of the state have suffered unless you see it up close. We were hit hard and a lot of people need help. This will give them a place to turn.”

For more information:

[Governor's Office Press Release on MSHA Program](#)

Contact: Maine State Housing Authority

1-800-452-4603

## Water Test Kits Available for York and Androscoggin County Residents

April 19, 2007

AUGUSTA, MAINE -- Water Test Kits are available to individuals with private wells in York and Androscoggin Counties for those who believe their water source may have been compromised due to the flooding conditions.

York County residents may pick up test kits at the York County Emergency Management Agency's office at 5 Swetts Bridge Road, Alfred, between the hours of 9:00 am and 3:00 pm starting Friday, April 20, 2007. The office will be open 7 days a week.

Once the test kit has been filled with the sample water, it must be tested within 24 hours. The filled test kit must be returned to the York County Emergency Management Agency's office no later than 9:00 am the following day.

Individuals will be notified if the water test and receive instructions on disinfecting the well.

Androscoggin County residents may call the Androscoggin County Emergency Operations Center at 784-0147 to request a kit.

Contact: York County EMA: 324-1578

## South Berwick Transfer Station to accept flood damaged items

April 19, 2007

South Berwick residents may drop off flood damaged items at the Transfer Station this weekend at no charge. The Town Council will make a further determination during their Council meeting Monday April 23, 2007.

## Important contacts for storm-related information

April 17, 2007

2:00 PM

Here are important phone numbers and web sites to help you weather the storm:

For immediate emergency assistance: Call 911

For road conditions: Call 511 or visit HYPERLINK

"<http://www.511maine.gov>"<http://www.511maine.gov>

For shelter information: Call 211 or visit HYPERLINK

"<http://www.211maine.org>"<http://www.211maine.org>

For flooded oil tanks: Call 800-482-0777 to notify DEP

If you think your well may be contaminated: 557-4214 (Maine Drinking Water Program )

For insurance questions: The Maine Bureau of Insurance: 1-800-300-5000 or

HYPERLINK "<http://www.maine.gov/insurance>"<http://www.maine.gov/insurance>

To report flooded roads or other problems: Call your local emergency management or fire department

In South Berwick dial 911 for emergencies or 384-2254 for a non emergency

To report power outages: Call the emergency number for your utility

Central Maine Power: 800-696-1000

Bangor Hydro: 1-800-440-1111

For further storm related information go to <http://www.maine.gov/mema/>