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# Disaster Assistance Guide

*United We Stand*

New York/September 29, 2001/FEMA ISSUE 1



FEMA photo by Andrea Booher

*The U.S. flag flies over debris at the World Trade Center site as Urban Search and Rescue teams remove debris and search for survivors.*

## WTC victims receive wide array of aid

Thousands of people lost their lives and thousands more were injured when terrorists crashed jetliners into the two World Trade Center towers on Sept. 11.

President Bush immediately responded to Gov. George E. Pataki's request and issued a major disaster declaration. The declaration makes federal emergency resources and assistance available to the state and city as well as to individuals, families and business owners affected by the World Trade Tower disaster.

"My heart and prayers are with the families of those who were killed and injured," FEMA Director Joe M. Allbaugh said. "All of FEMA's resources, including our 5,000

employees, are available to assist in this catastrophe. We will do all we can."

Because of the nature and magnitude of this disaster, an unprecedented array of help is available to victims, their families and affected businesses. This includes FEMA and other federal and state disaster assistance programs, such as special programs for victims of crime and public safety officers, in addition to private funds that have been set up specifically for victims of this disaster. (See next column for more assistance information.)

Additional disaster information is on the FEMA Web site, [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov), and [www.firstgov.gov](http://www.firstgov.gov).

### IMPORTANT RELIEF INFORMATION

Victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack in New York and their families may be eligible for a wide variety of benefits from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal, state and city agencies.

Under the Victims of Crime Act, administered by the Dept. of Justice, victims can be compensated for such things as medical bills, mental health counseling, funeral expenses, lost wages or loss of support. To apply for this assistance, call **800-247-8035** or go to [www.cvb.state.ny.us](http://www.cvb.state.ny.us).

FEMA may provide assistance to victims of the New York disaster who suffered loss of personal property or jobs or who need temporary housing because of the terrorist attack. See page 3 for other types of aid that may be available. To register for FEMA assistance, call **800-462-9029**.

Businesses of all sizes and homeowners and renters with physical or economic losses should seek assistance from the U.S. Small Business Administration. Call **800-659-2955** for information.

APPLY BY PHONE  
**800-462-9029**

(TTY: 1-800-462-7585)  
TOLL FREE  
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
Seven days a week



