



FEMA

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News Desk: 540-686-2972

News Release

Virginia FEMA aid applicants: You have the right to appeal

Virginia Beach, Va. – If you are dissatisfied with the amount, type or any other decision from FEMA about your disaster assistance, you have the right to appeal. These questions and answers can help guide you through the process.

What do I need to send to FEMA to appeal?

1. A letter explaining why you are appealing; the letter should include the applicant's full name, date and place of birth, and address. You, a co-applicant or a third party you authorize to appeal on your behalf must sign the letter.
2. Documents to support your appeal.
3. Include the disaster number and your FEMA application number on all submitted documents; these numbers are on your letter from FEMA.
4. You should have the letter notarized. Include a copy of a state-issued identification card or the following statement: "I hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct."

What kind of documents do I need to support my appeal?

Your letter from FEMA will state the reason for FEMA's decision. Your supporting documents should show why you disagree with the decision. If you aren't sure about the reason for FEMA's decision, don't know what kinds of documents you need to support your appeal, or have other questions about the appeals process, talk with a FEMA specialist by calling the **FEMA helpline, 800-621-3362** or visiting a disaster recovery center.

Is there a deadline for appealing?

You have **60 days** from the date of the FEMA decision letter to submit an appeal.

How do I submit my appeal?

Mail to:

FEMA
National Processing Service Center
P.O. Box 10055
Hyattsville, MD 20782-7055

Fax to:

800-827-8112
Attn: FEMA Appeals Officer

On the internet upload to:

Your account on DisasterAssistance.gov

How long will it take before I know FEMA's answer to my appeal?

You will receive a decision letter from FEMA within 90 days of FEMA's receipt of your appeal.

To check the status of your appeal, or to notify FEMA of any change to your mailing address or contact information, please visit www.DisasterAssistance.gov and select "Check Your Application Status," or call FEMA's Helpline at **800-621-3362**. Applicants who use **711** or **Video Relay Service** may also call **800-621-3362**. People who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability and use a **TTY** may call **800-462-7585**. The toll-free numbers are open from **7 a.m. to 11 p.m.**, seven days a week until further notice.

Additional information about this disaster is available at www.fema.gov and www.vaemergency.gov. To find a DRC nearest you go to www.Fema.gov/DRC. Virginians seeking information about disaster-related services and unmet needs should call **Virginia 211**, a statewide information and referral service. For **free legal assistance** contact **800-552-7977**, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Survivors are encouraged to register with FEMA as soon as possible. You can register online at DisasterAssistance.gov, on the [FEMA Mobile App](#), or by calling **800-621-3362**.

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FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.