



Joint Field Office  
McAllen, Texas

**FEMA**

Aug. 3, 2008  
FEMA-DR-1780-TX-NR-002  
Contact:  
News Desk: 956-661-2070  
Multilingual: 703-399-0767  
GDEM: 512-424-2138

# Disaster News

## RECOVERY CENTER VISITS ARE OPTIONAL FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE

**McALLEN, Texas** – Disaster Recovery Centers are available in Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy Counties to help residents affected by Hurricane Dolly, but it isn't necessary to visit a center to apply for disaster assistance.

The centers, operated by the Texas Governor's Division of Emergency Management (GDEM) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), are intended to help people who have already applied by calling the toll-free number or going online.

Applicants can get additional information or face-to-face assistance in filling out forms. There is never a charge for this help.

"We want to reach out to Texans who may need help with other disaster-related questions, which is why FEMA and the state opened three mobile centers on Sunday," said State Coordinating Officer Frank Cantu.

The centers are staffed by federal and state agency representatives, including officials from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The SBA disaster loan program is part of federal disaster assistance and can offer low-interest disaster loans to homeowners and renters, as well as business of all sizes and nonprofit organizations.

The way to apply for Hurricane Dolly disaster assistance is by calling toll-free **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or by going online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov). The number for applicants who have speech or hearing impairments is **TTY 1-800-462-7585**.

"You can get answers to questions about your application by calling the same number you use to register for assistance, but we understand sometimes it helps to talk face-to-face," Federal Coordinating Officer Sandy Coachman said.

Mobile Disaster Recovery Centers are serving the following locations:

**Cameron County**  
Harlingen Municipal  
Auditorium  
1204 Fair Park Blvd.  
Harlingen, TX 78550-2324

**Hidalgo County**  
La Villa Middle School  
Multipurpose Room  
500 E. Ninth St.  
La Villa, TX 78562

**Willacy County**  
American Legion  
211 W. Hidalgo Ave.  
Raymondville, TX 78580

**-MORE-**

*FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.*

*SBA is the federal government's primary source of money for the long-term rebuilding of disaster-damaged private property. SBA helps homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and private non-profit organizations fund repairs or rebuilding efforts, and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover uninsured and uncompensated losses and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations. Additional details and the location of assistance centers can be obtained by calling the SBA Customer Service Center at 800- 659-2955, emailing [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov), or on SBA's website at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance).*

*Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, economic status or retaliation. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, you should call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362) or contact your State Office of Equal Rights. If suspicious of any abuse of FEMA programs, please contact the fraud hotline at 800-323-8603.*

###

More information about this disaster is available online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or [www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem).