



PRESS RELEASE

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FEMA INSPECTORS TO BE IN COUNTY

As part of the recovery process following January's atmospheric river event, housing inspectors contracted by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) will be in the county verifying damages for those with pending FEMA claims.

All inspectors will carry identification and will never ask for money. Here are tips safeguard against fraud:

- **Ask to see ID badges.** FEMA representatives carry an ID badge with a photograph. FEMA-branded materials such as a shirt or jacket is not proof of identity.
- **Keep your FEMA registration number safe.** It is your key to your application information. Do not share it with others.
- **Safeguard personal information.** While personal financial information may be shared after an applicant initiates a disaster assistance application, no State or federal disaster assistance agency will call to ask for your financial account information. Be cautious when sharing social security or bank account numbers to anyone. FEMA inspectors may ask for identification but will already have your registration number.
- **Beware of people going door to door.** People knocking on doors at damaged homes or phoning homeowners claiming to be building contractors could be con artists, especially if they ask for personal information or solicit money.
- FEMA and U.S. Small Business Administration employees **never solicit or accept money.**

Those who suspect fraud may call the FEMA Disaster Fraud Hotline at 866-720-5721. Complaints may also be made to local law enforcement agencies.