SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

to Picking Up the Pieces: Restoring Rural Housing and Communities After a Disaster

West Virginia Floods Disaster Guide

Housing Assistance Council
June 27, 2016

On Wednesday, June 22nd, severe storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides began in West Virginia and a flash flood watch is in effect for central and southern counties until midnight on June 27th. The three hardest hit counties are Greenbrier, Kanawha, and Nicholas. At this time, flooding has caused 25 deaths and damaged at least 500 homes. Thousands are without power but Appalachian Power expects service to be restored by Monday night. This is the third-deadliest flooding event on record for the state. Governor Earl Ray Tomblin declared a state of emergency in 44 counties and authorized a deployment of up to 150 members of the state’s National Guard. President Obama signed the major disaster declaration on Saturday, allowing federal money to be used to help out individuals with emergency medical support, housing and other immediate needs. FEMA announced that it deployed an Incident Management Assistance Team to help provide support and guidance on the Federal Disaster Declaration Process and also help with damage assessments.

The following guide provides general information for those affected by the storms and flooding. For more information, please see HAC’s report Picking Up the Pieces: Restoring Rural Housing and Communities After a Disaster available for free online at: [http://www.ruralhome.org/storage/documents/disaster_guide_2012.pdf](http://www.ruralhome.org/storage/documents/disaster_guide_2012.pdf).

Tips

Remember to stay away from damaged areas and avoid floodwaters, which may be contaminated with oil, gasoline or sewage. Residents should also be wary of the continuing possibility of flash flooding. For information about flood safety please see [http://www.ready.gov/floods](http://www.ready.gov/floods). In the event of a flood:

- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.

- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground, when water is not moving or not more than a few inches deep. You and the vehicle can be swept away quickly. If your vehicle is trapped in rapidly moving water, stay in the vehicle. If the water is rising inside the vehicle, seek refuge on the roof.

- Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams, rivers or creeks, particularly during threatening conditions.

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Resources

Apply for FEMA Assistance by registering online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov. Operators are multilingual and calls are answered seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. CDT.

For a list of federal aid programs available, go to:

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):
Toll-free helpline:
1-800-621-FEMA (3362)
For hearing impaired callers only:
1-800-462-7585 (TTY)
1-800-621-3362 (Video Relay Service)

American Red Cross Disaster Service:
For referrals and updates on Red Cross shelter services in your area, locate a local Red Cross office through: http://www.redcross.org/find-help or by calling
1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

The Red Cross helps disaster victims by providing safe shelter, hot meals, essential relief supplies, emotional support and health services like first aid. Trained Red Cross workers often meet one-on-one with families to develop individual plans and identify available resources to help aid recovery.

State Emergency Management Agency
West Virginia Office of Emergency Services
Building 1, Room EB-80 1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0360
(304) 558-5380
(304) 344-4538 FAX
www.dhsem.wv.gov/

Additional Resources

Housing and Urban Development Local Office:
Dept. of Housing and Urban Development
Greenbrier County Housing Authority
Route 2, Box 142
Lewisburg, Greenbrier County, WV 24901
Phone: 304-645-4966
Fax: 304-645-4967
Email: srosshirt@gmail.com

Charleston Field Office
405 Capitol Street, Suite 708
Charleston, WV 25301-1795
Phone: (304) 347-7000
Email: WV_Webmanager@hud.gov
Fax: (304) 347-7050
TTY: (800) 877-8339
Jurisdiction: State of West Virginia
Vacant, Field Office Director

**Office Hours**: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Monday through Friday

**USDA Rural Development**
The state of West Virginia has numerous regional USDA Rural Development offices that administer programs to promote decent affordable housing to for low-income individuals.
For a list of these offices, please click here:

**Federal Aid Programs**