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Dixie and Levy counties declared federal disaster zones

Methods to seek help listed

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LEVY-DIXIE COUNTIES -- The Federal Emergency Management Agency on Wednesday (Sept. 28) announced that President Barack Obama has declared Levy and Dixie (and other Florida) counties to be available for federal assistance as a result of damage from Hurricane Hermine, according to documents provided by Levy County Emergency Management Assistant Director David Peaton.

As for the Tri-County Area, Gilchrist County was not so affected by the Category 1 hurricane as the other two counties. However, several other counties are noted as being elig

There are different types of assistance available from the federal government as a result of this declaration.

The incident leading to federal aid was Hurricane Hermine, according to records.

The incident period was Aug. 31 to Sept. 11, according to the document from FEMA. Gov. Rick Scott requested federal assistance on Sept. 20.

The designations and types of assistance noted are:

- **INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE** (assistance to individuals and households): Citrus, Dixie, Hernando, Hillsborough, Leon, Levy, Pasco and Pinellas counties.
- **PUBLIC ASSISTANCE** (Assistance for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities): Citrus, Dixie, Franklin, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Levy, Liberty, Madison, Pasco, Pinellas, Suwannee, Taylor and Wakulla counties, according to records.
- **HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM** (Assistance for actions taken to prevent or reduce long term risk to life and property from natural hazards): All areas in the State of Florida are eligible for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, according to records.
- **OTHER**: Additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the state and warranted by the results of further damage assessments, according to records.

*** Individuals and business owners who sustained losses in the designated area can begin applying for assistance tomorrow (Sept. 29) by registering online at <http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov> or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). Disaster assistance applicants, who have a speech disability or hearing loss and use TTY, should call 1-800-462-7585 directly; for those who use 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS), call 1-800-621-3362. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (local time) seven-days-a-week until further notice.**