

Small Businesses & Individuals - Important information Related to Recovery

The Federal Emergency Management Agency provides emergency assistance along with emergency funding. Their funding usually goes to organizations like Corps of Engineers, Department of Transportation and other organizations and small businesses that help with cleanup. **By federal law the work is supposed to go to local companies first, then outside companies.**

Small businesses need to be registered in a system called the **System for Award Management(SAM)** which is a database for government contracting

How to become an approved Small Business with FEMA

The Nebraska Business Development Center (NBDC) is skilled at helping small business and companies achieve that registration. Therefore, if you have a business that could help with that cleanup or know somebody who could be involved in that, you may want to have them contact the Nebraska PTAC at the Nebraska Business Development Center. Here is their [website https://www.unomaha.edu/nebraska-business-development-center-government-contracting/steps.php?fbclid=IwAR1TRgijNKTNK1leWy_BdxqLuWanH94gnnXbjB2tPzTs6hRRKZ0e0LAqclE](https://www.unomaha.edu/nebraska-business-development-center-government-contracting/steps.php?fbclid=IwAR1TRgijNKTNK1leWy_BdxqLuWanH94gnnXbjB2tPzTs6hRRKZ0e0LAqclE)

NCDC help businesses with this at no charge. Don't let anybody charge you for this registration. If the business does not have a Dun & Bradstreet number then go to this website where you can obtain that number free. <https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. The DUNS number is needed to be able to do the SAM registration.

Use reliable, licensed contractors. Call the Nebraska Department of Labor, [Contractor Registration Database](#) at 402.471.2239 or check with the Cornhusker Better Business Bureau at 402.391.7612 (Omaha), 402.436.2345 (Lincoln), 605.271.2066 (Sioux Falls) or nebraska.bbb.org to inquire about a business before signing a contract. At a minimum, be sure to ask about registration status, complaints history, and enforcement action, if applicable. *Watch out for folks who come to you and ask for your FEMA registration number, your social security number, cash deposits or advance payments in full*

Report contractor fraud to your local police department, the Nebraska State Patrol HELP line at **800-525-5555** and the Iowa Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division (CDP) at **800.727.6432**, or 888.850.7555 (En Espanol)

FEMA workers and inspectors always wear their photo ID where it can be seen at all times and never handle money or charge fees. FEMA employees and damage inspectors will also be able to confirm your case number, given to you when you register for assistance; a scam artist will not know your case number.

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/24418>

There are various possibilities in regards to your taxes and unemployment insurance that you may want to discuss with your attorney and/or accountant. You may be eligible for tax deductions on certain losses, with the possibility of claiming a federal casualty-loss deduction if your business is in a federally declared disaster area. In addition, if your employees are not eligible for regular state unemployment benefits, you may qualify for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), again provided your business is located in a federally declared disaster area.

Additional Information

Reconstructing Records after a Disaster (IRS)

<https://www.irsvideos.gov/Individual/DisasterInformation/ReconstructingRecords>

Records Recovery of Documents

Storage of damaged documents to help slow down the disintegration and more. [Records Recovery Document](#) (PDF file, 24KB)

IRS - Casualties, Disasters, and Thefts Publication 547 Cat. No. 15090K

<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p547.pdf>

IRS relief exceptions (Businesses)

When the federal government declares a disaster area, the IRS provides special relief to victims of the disaster. Such relief often takes the form of extended deadlines for filing and payment of individual and business taxes. Visit the IRS website to obtain information about relief granted in relation to a specific disaster (see Resources). If you live, or have a business, outside the designated area but have been affected by the disaster, contact the IRS to request information about relief exceptions and filing extension if your tax records were stored in the disaster area.

[Alternative Fueling Station Locator](#)

Do you have a diesel, hybrid, flexible fuel (FFV), or other vehicle that uses alternative fuel? Use this interactive map to help you find fueling stations near you. (U.S. Department of Energy)

[U.S. Postal Service Alerts](#)

Find out if there are any postal service problems in your area after a weather-related or other event:

Is your post office open?

Is there mail delivery?

You can view residential as well as business alerts. If you need to relocate, you can also do your [change of address](#) online. (U.S. Postal Service)

[Emergency Watershed Protection \(EWP\) Program](#)

This program helps to conserve natural resources and aid watershed recovery after natural disasters. Both public and private landowners may qualify. You can find details for both EWP and the EWP Floodplain Easement Program (FPE) on the site. (U.S. Department of Agriculture)

***This information was provided by The Tax Institute and the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. [The Tax Institute](#) – Direct questions to virginia@unl.edu
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