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Subject: Test Message - Disaster Recovery Centers Open In Florence And Marion Counties To Help Hurricane Matthew Survivors

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For immediate release
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Disaster Recovery Centers Open In Florence And Marion Counties To Help Hurricane Matthew Survivors

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Disaster recovery centers are now open in Gresham and Lake City to help residents with damages and losses from Hurricane Matthew. The Florence County and Marion County centers will be open Monday through Saturday until further notice.

Representatives from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Small Business Administration and other public and private agencies are at the center to explain disaster assistance programs and help survivors with applications for aid.

The disaster recovery centers are located at the following addresses:

Florence County

Ragsdale Old Warehouse

245 S. Church Street
Lake City, SC 29560
8 AM to 6 PM, Monday- Saturday
Closed Sunday

Williamsburg County

Safford Building

6882 Highway 908
Gresham, SC 29546
9 AM to 7 PM, Monday- Friday
10 AM to 6 PM, Saturday
Closed Sunday

It is not necessary to visit a center to register for and receive state-federal disaster assistance. If possible, survivors should register with FEMA before visiting a recovery center.

To register go online any time to DisasterAssistance.gov or call the FEMA helpline at **800-621-3362**. Help is available in most languages, and phone lines are open 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM seven days a week until further notice.

Disaster survivors who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability and use a TTY may call **800-462-7585** to register. Those who use 711 or VRS (Video Relay Service) or require accommodations while visiting a center may call **800-621-3362**. All disaster recovery centers are accessible and equipped

with tools to accommodate disaster survivors who need disability-related communication aids.

Federal and state disaster assistance for eligible individuals and families can include money for temporary rental assistance and essential home repairs for primary residences and help with other serious disaster-related losses not covered by insurance.

Low-interest disaster recovery loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration are the primary means of federal help for disaster survivors, including homeowners, renters and businesses of all sizes. Individuals and businesses should first register with FEMA. For information on SBA disaster recovery loans call **800-659-2955/800-877-8339** TTY or go online to [SBA.gov/disaster](https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela). An application for an SBA disaster recovery loan may be completed online at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. Additional disaster recovery centers will open soon in South Carolina counties affected by Hurricane Matthew.

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