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Subject: IA Declaration DRAFT NR

Good evening...

Here is the draft news release announcing federal Individual Assistance program for you to send out once we receive our declaration. We hope to have word on the program very soon and we will need to confirm the counties once everything has been made official. Let me know if you need anything, have a good night! -DB

Hurricane Matthew survivors in 20 S.C. counties can apply for FEMA Disaster Aid

COLUMBIA, S.C. (October XX, 2016) – The Federal Emergency Management Agency's disaster declaration for Hurricane Matthew makes survivors in 20 South Carolina counties eligible for the Individual Assistance program.

Now, residents who were affected by severe storms and heavy flooding in the following 20 counties can apply for FEMA assistance: **Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Lee, Marion, Orangeburg, Sumter and Williamsburg** counties.

Survivors who sustained losses in the designated counties can apply for federal assistance by registering online at DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling [800-621-3362](tel:800-621-3362). Disaster assistance applicants who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability and use a TTY may call [800-462-7585](tel:800-462-7585). Those who use 711 or Video Relay Service may call [800-621-3362](tel:800-621-3362). The toll-free telephone numbers will operate 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.

Assistance can include money for temporary rental assistance and essential home repairs for primary homes, low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration to cover uninsured property losses and other programs to help survivors recover from the effects of the disaster.

Anyone with unmet needs such as food, clothing and shelter should call 2-1-1 to be connected with local relief supplies. Residents with damage from Hurricane Matthew can call 1-800-451-1954 to request volunteers from Helping Hands to assist debris and mold cleanup.

-END-

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"South Carolina's emergency management program minimizes loss of life and property damage from all-hazard incidents."