



**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**  
**POST-HURRICANE IDA RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE**

**September 7, 2021**

**FEMA ISSUES EMERGENCY DECLARATION:** On Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> FEMA made an official emergency declaration for several counties in New York State including all areas of Westchester County. This declaration allows individuals and families to apply for federal disaster assistance for damages caused by remnants of Hurricane Ida.

The Village of Rye Brook want to inform residents impacted by Hurricane Ida about the resources currently available to them. Attached please find important information about assistance and cleanup guidelines.

**HOW TO APPLY FOR FEMA INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE:** The fastest way to apply for FEMA assistance is through [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov). You can also apply by calling 1-800-621-3362 (TTY 1-800-462-7585) or through the [FEMA mobile app](#).

Always remember to take photos of your damaged home and belongings; make a list of damaged/lost items; keep receipts/invoices for any purchases or repairs, and file a claim with your insurance companies (flood insurance, general insurance, etc.). Then, apply for assistance from the FEMA. You will need to provide FEMA with an insurance determination letter (FEMA cannot provide assistance for losses that are covered by insurance), proof of occupancy or ownership, and proof of ID.

**RYE BROOK HOUSEHOLD DEBRIS CLEANUP:**

The Village public works employees and our sanitation contractor continues to pick up household items at the curb that were damaged by the flood water. Sometimes you may see that they did not pick everything up in one pass, but they will be back either the same day or a different day. Please note that limitations on the time frames for items to be placed at the curb are waived for storm damaged items.

The Village is unable to pick up construction and demolition debris. This should be disposed of on your own or through your contractor or private dumpster collection.

**OTHER LOCAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE:**

The Village has been linking volunteers with residents who have special needs such as bringing items from outside a home to the curb. If you would like to request volunteer(s), please contact Liz Rotfeld at the Rye Brook Senior Center at (914) 939-7904 during regular business hours, or (914) 351-6705 outside regular business hours. You can also use this phone number to make a request for any special needs (a ride to supermarket or physician if you do not have a vehicle; access to meals, etc.) and we will try to match a resource to help you in your situation.

Residents who need temporary housing assistance can also reach out to the Westchester County Department of Social Services. If you have a housing emergency, you may call 914-995-2099. If you need immediate assistance, you may also contact the American Red Cross at 877-RED-CROSS or United Way by dialing 211.

**CONCERNS WITH MOLD AND ELECTRIC:** Two of the biggest concerns in cleaning up after disasters are *mold*, and *electric* that was damaged by water.

***Mold:***

- If you were not able to dry your home within 24-48 hours, you should assume you have mold growth. You need to completely dry everything, clean up the mold, and make sure you still do not have a moisture problem.
- Mold exposure can lead to asthma attacks, eye and skin irritation, and allergic reactions. It can also lead to severe infections in people with weakened immune systems.
- Flood water may have also carried sewerage or chemicals into your home which could expose you or your family to viruses, bacteria, disease carriers and parasites, as well as mold.
- Mold cleanup may be too difficult or dangerous for you, so it may be safest to get assistance from a qualified mold inspection or remediation professional if you can.
- If you must do the work yourself, wear personal protective equipment including an N-95 respirator at a minimum (even better are a half-face or full-face respirator if you are doing extended work),

wear goggles that keep out dust and small particles, and protective gloves (non-latex, vinyl, nitrile, or rubber).

- Please read the attached “*Homeowner’s and Renter’s Guide to Mold Cleanup After Disasters*” for more specific information and guidance about mold.

*Electrical System, Equipment & Appliances:*

- Flooding can damage your electrical system. Do not attempt to use any electrical outlets or other electrical equipment or appliances that were damaged by water. Very few electrical items in a house are rated to survive submersion, even briefly.
- Should electrical appliances be water damaged, there is a very high chance they will never again be safe to use. Flood water contaminates any appliance that is submerged, or even partially submerged. Even after drying and cleaning, there may well be sediment that has damaged the appliance. This applies to more than just your small appliances – flood water may also damage your breaker box and general electrical wiring in your home. So, after the event of a flood in your home, make sure you consult a professional electrician to verify the safety of your electrical appliances, large and small.
- Should your electrical power be shut off by Con Edison due to damage caused by flooding, you must retain the services of a Westchester County Licensed Electrician to make whatever repairs are necessary. All electrical repairs must then be inspected by the Village’s Electrical Inspection Agency prior to being re-energized by Con Edison. Please contact the Building Department at 939-0668 for further information.
- Any damaged gas heating or hot water equipment must be repaired by a Westchester County Licensed Plumber or H.V.A.C. Contractor.
- All natural or liquid propane gas system repairs must also be inspected by the Village Plumbing Inspector prior to being placed back in service. Please contact the Building Department at 939-0668 for further information.
- Consult with a licensed air conditioning or a heating/cooling contractor to advise you whether your heating or cooling equipment can be salvaged. It depends upon the type of equipment, the depth of the floodwaters, and the duration of submersion. Many people try to salvage appliances such as dehumidifiers, refrigerators, and freezers that have been in flooded basements. Some do go on to live a post-flood life, but it's risky: They can be extremely dangerous to operate after they've been flooded.
- Only a licensed electrician is equipped and trained to evaluate the damage caused by flooding to an electrical system, so they should be asked to conduct a thorough survey of your system.

The Village of Rye Brook has provided a list of resources on its web site. Please visit [www.ryebrook.org](http://www.ryebrook.org) and click on the red banner on the top of the home page for additional information on post-Hurricane Ida assistance and resources.

*END*

## Apply for Disaster Assistance

**Internet or Smartphone Application:** Disaster survivors may apply for the Individuals and Households Program or check their application status at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov). Disaster survivors may also access FEMA via smartphone by downloading the application from [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or through their mobile provider's application store.

**By Phone:** Disaster survivors may call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-3362 to register for assistance or check their application status. Disaster survivors who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability and use a Text Telephone (TTY) may call 800-462-7585. Disaster survivors who use T11 or VRS (Video Relay Service) may call 800-621-3362.

**In Person:** Visit a Disaster Recovery Center.

- For locations, check FEMA's mobile app [www.fema.gov/mobile-app](http://www.fema.gov/mobile-app) or call 1-800-621-3362, or visit [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov).
- Disaster Survivor Assistance team members may visit door-to-door in your area. They will have official FEMA photo identification.

## WHAT to DO if YOU DISAGREE with FEMA'S DECISION LETTER

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO APPEAL FEMA'S ELIGIBILITY DECISIONS INCLUDING THE AMOUNT OF YOUR AWARD.



### When do I need to submit my appeal?

You must submit your appeal within **60 days** of the date on your eligibility notification letter.



### What do I need to provide?

A signed, written explanation outlining why you believe FEMA's decision is incorrect and copies of any documents supporting your appeal, including proof of your disaster losses.

Your full name, your FEMA Application Number and Disaster Number, your pre-disaster primary residence address, and your current phone number and address should be included on all submitted documents. These numbers are printed on Page 1 of your Decision Letter, above your name and address.

### Where do I send my appeal?



Mail to:  
FEMA  
PO Box 10055  
Hyattsville, MD 20782-8055

Or



Fax to:  
800-827-8112  
Attn: FEMA Appeals Officer

### How long will it take before I know if my appeal is approved or denied?

You will receive a decision letter from FEMA within **90 days** of FEMA's receipt of your appeal.

To check the status of your appeal, or to notify FEMA of any change to your mailing address or contact information, please visit [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) and select **Check Your Application Status**, or call FEMA's Helpline at 800-621-FEMA (3362)

### Who can I call if I have questions about my appeal?

Call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 (voice/711/VRS). For Spanish, press 2. TTY: 800-621-3362. Or visit: [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov).

# Help After a Disaster

## FEMA Individual Assistance Can Help You Recover

FEMA B-5457 April 2019



FEMA





## How can FEMA help you?

Assistance from FEMA may help you and members of your household affected by a disaster take care of necessary expenses and serious needs that cannot be met through insurance or other forms of assistance.

### Housing Assistance:

Housing Assistance may provide financial or direct assistance, including:

**Rental Assistance:** Financial assistance to rent temporary housing while disaster-caused repairs are made to your primary residence, or while transitioning to permanent housing.

**Lodging Expense Reimbursement:** Financial assistance reimbursement for short-term lodging expenses.

**Home Repair:** Financial assistance for homeowners to repair uninsured home damage caused by the disaster. The assistance is intended to repair the home to a safe, sanitary and functioning living condition.

**Home Replacement:** Financial assistance for homeowners who must replace or rebuild their primary residence as a result of the disaster.

**Direct Housing:** In limited circumstances where adequate temporary housing resources are not available within a reasonable commuting distance, FEMA may provide a temporary housing unit directly to homeowners and renters.

### Other Needs Assistance:

**Personal Property:** Financial assistance to repair or replace common household items including, but not

limited to, furnishings, appliances, essential tools and assistive equipment that supports daily living activities.

**Medical/Dental:** Financial assistance to pay for medical or dental expenses or losses caused by the disaster. This includes, but is not limited to, hospital and ambulance services, medication, and the repair or replacement of medically necessary assistive devices or technology.

**Funeral:** Financial assistance for expenses incurred due to a death or disinterment caused directly or indirectly by the disaster. Expenses include, but are not limited to, the cost of a casket or urn and funeral services.

**Child Care:** Financial assistance for increased child care costs as a result of the disaster. Eligible expenses include child care costs for children aged 13 and under and/or children with a disability, as defined by Federal law, up to age 21, who need assistance with activities of daily living.

**Miscellaneous Expenses:** Financial assistance to purchase specific items not owned prior to the disaster. They may include, but are not limited to, items such as a wet/dry vacuum, chainsaw, or a generator for a medically necessary device.

**Transportation:** Financial assistance to repair or replace a vehicle damaged by the disaster.

**Moving and Storage Expenses:** Financial assistance to temporarily move and store personal property from the damaged primary residence while repairs are made. Assistance may also be provided for moving essential household goods to a new primary residence.

**Clean and Removal:** Financial assistance for services to remove contaminants and disinfect surface areas of the home affected by floodwater.

**Critical Needs:** Financial assistance for applicants who have immediate or critical needs because they are displaced from their primary dwelling.

### Eligibility Criteria for Housing and Other Needs Assistance:

- Your disaster losses must be in a Presidentially declared disaster area;
- A member of your household must be a United States citizen, a non-citizen national, or a qualified alien;
- You have necessary expenses or serious needs as a result of the disaster that are not covered by insurance, or you filed an insurance claim but your benefits are not enough to cover your expenses, or your damage was not covered by insurance or other sources.

### Additional FEMA Individual Assistance Programs

**Crisis Counseling:** Assists individuals and communities recovering from the effects of a disaster through the provision of community-based outreach and educational services.

**Disaster Unemployment:** Provides unemployment benefits and re-employment assistance services to survivors affected by a Presidentially-declared major disaster. These services are under the responsibility of the U.S. Department of Labor and administered by the State, Local, Territory, or Tribal government emergency management officials of the affected area(s).

**Disaster Legal Services:** Provides free legal assistance to low income individuals who are otherwise unable to secure legal services to meet their disaster related needs.

**Disaster Case Management:** Assists individuals with unmet needs caused by the disaster through the development and implementation of a Household Recovery Plan.

### Partner Agency Assistance

To meet the needs of disaster survivors, FEMA partners with other governmental and non-governmental agencies.

FEMA works with the U.S. Small Business Administration to offer low-interest disaster loans to homeowners and renters in a declared disaster area. You do not need to own a business to apply for a disaster loan.

Learn more about applying for a disaster loan or about assistance available from other FEMA partners at: [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov)



FEMA B-545/April 2019

FEMA



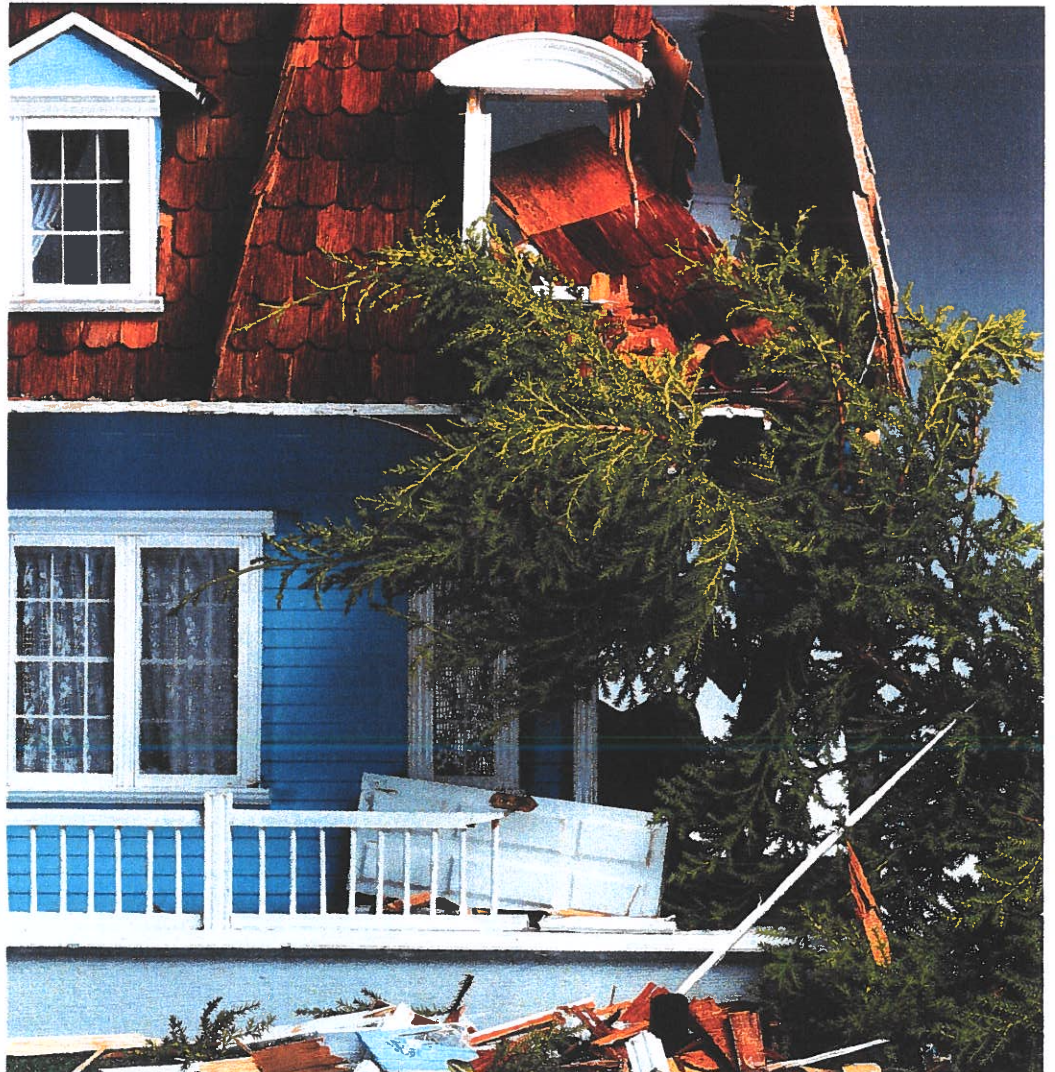
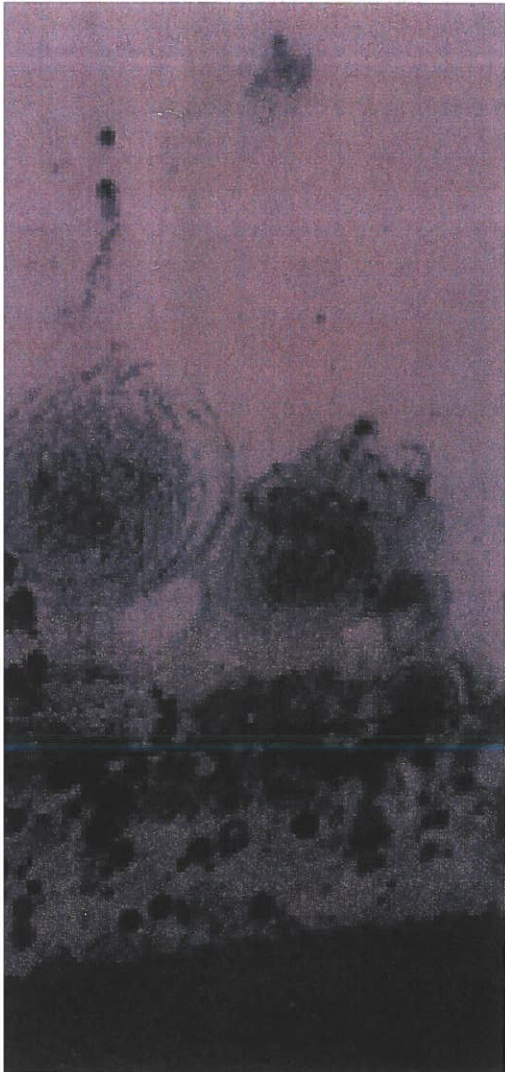


FEMA



National Institutes  
of Health

# HOMEOWNER'S AND RENTER'S GUIDE TO MOLD CLEANUP AFTER DISASTERS





Cleaning up after a flood can pose health risks. You and your family should wait to re-enter your home until professionals tell you it is safe, with no structural, electrical or other hazards.

Before you start cleanup activities, contact your insurance company and take pictures of the home and your belongings. Remember – drying your home and removing water-damaged items is your most important step for preventing mold damage.

## IS THERE A PROBLEM?

Was your home flooded? If so, and you were not able to dry your home (including furniture and other items) within 24-48 hours, you should assume you have mold growth. You need to *completely* dry everything, clean up the mold, and make sure you don't still have a moisture problem.

You may see or smell mold on clothing, drywall, furniture, cardboard boxes, or books, but it may also be hidden under or behind items like carpet, cushions, or walls.

## MOLD BASICS: HOW MOLDS CAN AFFECT YOUR HEALTH

Exposure to mold can lead to asthma attacks, eye and skin irritation, and allergic reactions. It can lead to severe infections in people with weakened immune systems. Avoid contaminated buildings and contaminated water as much as you can.

### KEY MESSAGES

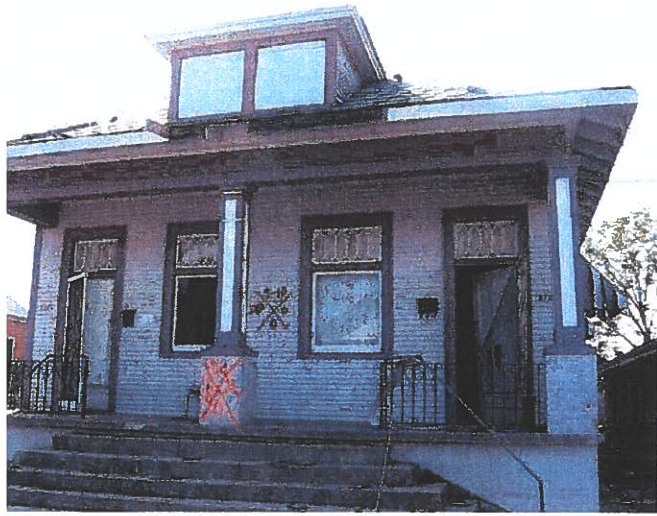
- Wear personal protective equipment. Wear an N-95 respirator at a minimum, goggles, and protective gloves.
- Use portable generators carefully, outside and away from the home, to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning and fires.
- Ensure the mold cleanup is complete before reoccupying your home.

Flood water may have carried sewage or chemicals into your home. This could expose you or your family to viruses, bacteria, disease carriers (such as mosquitos), and parasites, as well as mold. To learn more about cleaning and disinfection go to: [www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/flood/standing.html](http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/flood/standing.html)

You can protect yourself and your family from mold exposure by following these steps.

### BEFORE YOU ENTER ANY MOLDY SITE:

- **Protect yourself and loved ones against hazards.** People with breathing problems like asthma or who have weakened immune systems should stay away from moldy sites. Children should not take part in disaster cleanup work. Check for loose power lines or gas leaks. Make sure the electricity and gas are turned off. Look for sagging ceilings or floors or other structural problems. Watch out for wet, muddy, or slippery floors.
- **Protect your mouth and nose** against breathing in mold: wear at least an N-95 respirator. If you plan to spend a lot of time removing moldy belongings or doing work like ripping out moldy drywall, wear a half-face or full-face respirator. Basic information on using it is in [OSHA's general respiratory protection guidance](#).
- **Protect your skin.** Wear protective gloves (non-latex, vinyl, nitrile, or rubber). Do not touch mold or moldy items with bare hands.
- **Protect your eyes.** Wear goggles that provide *complete* eye protection. Choose goggles designed to keep out dust and small particles. Safety glasses or goggles that have open vent holes will not protect you against dust and small particles.



## **AFTER YOU LEAVE A MOLD SITE:**

- **Protect yourself and loved ones.** Shower and change your clothes. This will help you avoid carrying mold and other hazards back to your current living quarters.

## **SHOULD I DO THIS MYSELF?**

This job may be too difficult or dangerous for you. It may be best to get help from experienced and qualified professionals if you can. Hire a mold inspection or remediation professional affiliated with or certified by the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), the Institute of

Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC), or American Council for Accredited Certification (ACAC) to inspect, repair, and restore the damaged parts of your home. Your state also may regulate mold remediation.

Sampling for mold is not usually recommended. Understanding the results can be difficult, and no matter what kind of mold is in your home, you need to clean it up and fix the moisture problem.

## **IF I MUST DO THIS MYSELF, HOW CAN I DO IT SAFELY?**

**Follow these steps:**

1. Put on the personal protective equipment described above to protect your eyes, nose, mouth, and skin.
2. Remove standing water and wet materials. Use a wet vacuum to remove water from floors, carpets, and hard surfaces. Dry your home and everything in it as quickly as you can – within 24 to 48 hours if you can.
3. Open all doors and windows when you are working and leave as many open as is safe when you leave.
  - o Open inside doors, especially closets and interior rooms, to let air flow to all areas. Take doors off their hinges if you need to.
  - o Open kitchen cabinets and bathroom vanity doors; remove drawers, wipe them clean, and stack them to dry.
  - o Open the attic access to let air flow to the attic. Before you open the attic door, make sure nothing will fall on you.
4. When electricity is safe to use, use fans and dehumidifiers to remove moisture. Do not use fans if mold has already started to grow, because the fans may spread the mold.
5. Clean with water and a detergent. Remove all mold you can see. Dry right away.
6. If you use cleaning products, do not mix cleaning products together. **DO NOT** mix bleach and ammonia because it can create toxic vapors.
7. Painting or caulking over mold will not prevent mold from growing. Fix the water problem completely and clean up all the mold before you paint or caulk.
8. Throw away items that can't be cleaned and dried. Throw away anything that was wet with flood water and can't be cleaned and dried completely within 24 to 48 hours. If you have precious items that you want to preserve, follow these guidelines from the Smithsonian Institute: [https://www.si.edu/mci/english/learn\\_more/taking\\_care/mnm.html](https://www.si.edu/mci/english/learn_more/taking_care/mnm.html)