



**MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**  
**NEWS RELEASE**  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 19, 2009

**New location for SBA disaster loan center in Panola County**

**PEARL** – The U.S. Small Business Administration’s Disaster Loan Outreach Center location for Panola County has been moved to the County Courthouse on 151 Public Square in Batesville. The center will open the following days and times:

Tuesday, May 19 – Friday, May 22: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday, May 23: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Monday, May 25 – Friday, May 29: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Residents can also apply by phone (1-800-659-2955 or 1-800-877-8339 for the hearing impaired) or by visiting the SBA Web site at [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).

Governor Haley Barbour’s request for disaster loans for residents and businesses in and near Panola County was granted May 12th by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

A severe thunderstorm inundated Panola County with heavy rains and damaging winds on the morning of May 6. More than 100 homes were affected by the storm and numerous power outages occurred in the county and in the city of Batesville.

Homeowners in Panola County and contiguous counties including Lafayette, Quitman, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tunica and Yalobusha can apply for low-interest loans up to \$200,000 to make repairs and all residents, homeowners or renters, can apply for low-interest loans up to \$40,000 to replace personal property.

Qualified businesses and non-profit organizations that sustained damage in the previously mentioned counties are eligible for low-interest loans up to \$2 million to make repairs. Small businesses may also qualify for economic injury disaster loans that provide necessary working capital until normal operations resume after a disaster.

**Residents do not have to wait until insurance claims are settled to apply.**

Interest rates will range from 2.437 percent to 4.875 for homeowners and renters, and from 4 to 6 percent for businesses and non-profit organizations.

For more information please contact MEMA External Affairs at 1-866-920-6362.

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*“Disaster Preparedness Saves Lives and Property”*  
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