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# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Denton County added to areas in disaster declaration *Little Elm residents and businesses may be eligible for help*

LITTLE ELM (June 9, 2015) Residents, whether homeowners or renters, as well as businesses in Little Elm are now eligible for Individual Assistance as a result of a disaster declaration by the Texas Division of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), says Assistant Town Manager Doug Peach.

“Those individuals affected by the floods which began on May 4 are eligible,” he said. “Assistance may take the form of federal grants to help pay for rent, temporary housing and home repairs, as well as other serious disaster-related needs, such as medical and dental expenses or funeral and burial costs.”

To register for the assistance, residents may visit [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov) or call 1-800-621-FEMA (3362), and have the following available: house address with zip code; detailed directions to the affected property; preliminary condition of the damaged home; property insurance information, if available; the registrant’s Social Security Number; a reliable daytime phone number; and an address where the registrant can get mail.

Eligible grantees may use direct deposit to have assistance funds sent directly to their bank or credit union. Interested individuals should provide bank account type, account number and bank routing number.

“When residents or business owners register, they will be given a FEMA registration number,” said Peach. “They should write down that number and save it. It will be necessary to have that number whenever they contact FEMA for information or follow-up.”

FEMA has operators who are capable of speaking a variety of languages.

Little Elm residents who had storm damage should register with FEMA even if they have insurance. FEMA cannot duplicate insurance payments, but under-insured applicants may receive help after their insurance claims have been settled. Registration with FEMA should be completed before insurance claims are settled.

In addition, low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) also are available. SBA helps businesses of all sizes, private non-profit organizations, homeowners and renters fund repairs or rebuilding efforts and cover the cost of replacing lost or disaster-damaged personal property. These disaster loans cover losses not fully compensated by insurance or other recoveries and do not duplicate benefits of other agencies or organizations.

“We strongly encourage residents and businesses to register with FEMA as soon as possible,” he said. “Once registered, eligibility can be determined. Those who don’t register, however, will never know if they could have benefitted.”

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**ABOUT LITTLE ELM** – Little Elm is one of the state’s fastest growing communities. Nestled on the shores of Lake Lewisville, the Town was incorporated in 1966, adopting the Council/Manager form of government. The population increased dramatically over the last several years, growing from under 4,000 in 2000 to over 30,000 today. Little Elm’s population exceeds the state average in education and income, and is increasingly trending younger and technologically proficient. The Town’s footprint is just over 21 square miles and boasts some 66 linear miles of shoreline within its boundaries.