



FEMA

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News Release

FEMA's FLOOD MITIGATION SPECIALISTS OFFER OUTREACH AT FOUR NEW JERSEY HOME IMPROVEMENT STORES

SOMERSET, NJ – Teams from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood mitigation group will be at local home supply stores in Bergen, Morris, Passaic and Gloucester counties to assist people with flood mitigation measures.

The outreach teams will be at the following stores from Thursday, April 15 to Saturday, April 24 (except Sunday, April 18). Hours 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- **Bergen County: Home Depot; 520 Route 17, Paramus**
- **Morris County: Lowe's; 1201 Route 23 North, Butler**
- **Passaic County: Home Depot, Passaic City; 75 McLean Blvd., Paterson**
- **Gloucester County: Lowe's; 611 Woodbury Glassboro Rd., Sewell**

Specialists from FEMA will be on hand to explain techniques that can reduce damage to homes, businesses and property from future flooding. How-to information for retrofitting buildings and elevating utilities will be available as well as hand-outs including brochures about the National Flood Insurance Program.

The teams will have information about safely cleaning up after a flood, getting safely back into a home after a flood, repairing a flood-damaged home and mitigation information for rebuilding using disaster-resistant techniques.

Available information also includes things residents can do to avoid flood damage in the future such as:

- Relocate main electric switchbox above potential floodwaters
- Relocate electric outlets and switches above potential floodwaters
- Move washer and dryer to a higher floor

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- Elevate furnace and water heater
- Have a licensed plumber install a backflow valve to prevent sewer backup
- Purchase flood insurance

The teams also will have information on how people can get help with other disaster-related questions.

In addition to FEMA's in-store mitigation specialists, comprehensive information on how to prepare for disasters can be accessed at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/index.shtm>

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FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders and to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.