



FEMA

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Press Release

DRAFT NATIONAL DISASTER HOUSING STRATEGY RELEASED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

WASHINGTON – The Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) today announced the draft *National Disaster Housing Strategy*, which includes a 60-day public comment period beginning Wednesday, July 23. The *Strategy* summarizes, for the first time in a single document, the many sheltering and housing capabilities, principles, and policies that guide and inform the disaster housing process. The *Strategy* also charts the new direction that our disaster housing efforts must take to better meet the disaster housing needs of individuals and communities moving forward.

The *Strategy* promotes a national housing effort that engages all levels of government, the nonprofit and private sectors, and individuals to collectively meet the urgent housing needs of disaster victims and enable individuals, households and communities to rebuild and restore their way of life when a disaster threatens or strikes.

“The *National Disaster Housing Strategy* recognizes that effective housing solutions are those that go beyond simply providing a housing unit to also address the complex needs of disaster victims,” FEMA Deputy Administrator Harvey E. Johnson, Jr. said. “The *Strategy* clarifies roles at the local, state, tribal and federal levels to match the responsibilities at each level and, importantly, includes the responsibilities of individuals, non-government organizations and the private sector.”

The *Strategy* calls for a National Disaster Housing Task Force, which is jointly led by FEMA, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the National American Red Cross and includes experts from all levels of government, the private sector and non-governmental organizations. The Task Force will focus full time attention on disaster housing, developing operational plans, building disaster housing capabilities, and achieving the vision and goals of the *Strategy*.

Interested parties are encouraged to provide feedback to the draft *Strategy* during the 60-day comment period. A comment form has been circulated to various departments, agencies and key stakeholders. Individuals who wish to submit comments can obtain a comment form and instructions for submission online at www.regulations.gov, in Docket ID FEMA-2008-0009. Comments should be submitted by one of the following four methods:

- to www.regulations.gov;
- e-mail to FEMA-POLICY@dhs.gov;

- fax to 866-466-5370; or
- deliver to Office of Chief Counsel, FEMA, 500 C Street, SW Room 835, Washington, DC 20472.

All comments must reference Docket ID FEMA-2008-0009. Regardless of the method used for submitting comments, all submissions will be posted, without change, to the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>, and will include any personal information provided.

During this comment period, the 2008 Disaster Housing Plan will continue to serve as the operational guide for disaster related housing needs.

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

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