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NEWS RELEASE

Governor Urges Floyd Victims to Register with FEMA; Hunterdon County Residents Added to Eligibility List for Individual Assistance

Governor Christie Whitman today urged New Jerseyans to register with the Federal Emergency Management Agency as soon as possible if they suffered damage during Tropical Storm Floyd. The Governor also noted that FEMA has added Hunterdon County to the list of eligible counties for individual assistance.

"If you are eligible for assistance it is important that you call now to ensure that FEMA is aware of your situation so they can guide you in the right direction when seeking federal help," said Governor Whitman. "I also want to make sure that Hunterdon County residents know they are now eligible for individual assistance."

In addition, Bergen, Passaic, Somerset, Essex, Middlesex, Mercer, Morris and Union Counties are eligible for both individual and public assistance. All New Jersey counties can apply for Hazard Mitigation Grants.

The Governor also encouraged prompt registration with FEMA. Those seeking assistance must do so within 60 days of the original presidential declaration date, which was September 18, 1999.

As of today, 12,596 New Jerseyans have registered with FEMA. It is expected that this may represent only half of those that are eligible.

The toll-free number for disaster registration is 1-800-462- 9029, TTD 1-800-462-7585. The phone line is open 7:00 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week.