

JacksonCountyFEMA0523c

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Jackson County joins Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton counties as being designated for federal relief for damages from heavy rains and flooding in the Florida Panhandle earlier this month. Residents are eligible for disaster recovery grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, and low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration. Florida Division of Emergency Management spokesman Aaron Gallaher says everyone with damaged property should register with FEMA even if they already have insurance.

JacksonCountyFEMA0523c oc: "...advantage of it." 0:16

Sound-“Anyone that has sustained any kind of impact from this event needs to register with FEMA, needs to visit the FEMA hotline, 800-621-FEMA, or disasterassistance.gov, and let’s just make sure that now that there’s assistance available, everyone takes full advantage of it.”

He says FEMA evaluates eligibility for federal assistance on a case-by-case basis and a registration deadline has not yet been set. A Jackson County disaster recovery center where those seeking aid will be able to speak to representatives from both FEMA and the SBA is expected to open within a week.