



FEMA

May 7, 2010  
DR-1897 NR-029  
FEMA – Alberto Pillot: 732-805-4126  
NJOEM – Nick Morici: 609-963-6900 x 6209

# News Release

## **FEMA'S HAZARD MITIGATION ADVISORS OFFER OUTREACH AT THREE NEW JERSEY HOME RENOVATION STORES**

**SOMERSET, NJ** – Teams from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood mitigation group will be at local home supply stores in Morris, Somerset and Essex counties to assist people with flood mitigation measures. To date, FEMA mitigation teams have assisted over 3,700 residents through the local store outreach program.

The outreach teams will be at the following stores from **Monday May 10th to Friday, May 14th**. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. On **Saturday May 15th**, hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- **Morris County: Home Depot; 780 Route 46 West, Parsippany**
- **Somerset County: Home Depot; 400 Promenade Blvd., Bridgewater**
- **Essex County: Home Depot, 60 Orange Street, Bloomfield**

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 securely 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

--MORE--

**Mitigation Outreach**  
**Page 2 of 2**

- 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>

Receive up to the minute New Jersey disaster recovery information by following us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/femaregion2](http://www.twitter.com/femaregion2)

###

*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.*