

Fact Sheet

FEMA Reinterment Assistance

FEMA disaster assistance may be available for reinterment efforts in South Carolina cemeteries, where floodwaters have dislodged or destroyed caskets, vaults, and mausoleums. FEMA disaster assistance for the reinterment of exposed human remains or dislodged burial vessels is available to individuals and cemeteries on a case-by-case basis.

Eligibility for assistance depends on the location of the cemetery, who has legal responsibility for the gravesites, and who has legal ownership of the cemetery.

Information regarding reinterment assistance is available by calling FEMA's Helpline at 1-800-621-3362, from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Eastern Time, seven days per week.

Private versus Public Cemeteries

When determining eligibility for FEMA reinterment assistance,

- "Private" refers to:
 - Cemeteries owned and operated by a private entity
 - Cemeteries owned and operated by a private nonprofit entity
 - Cemeteries maintained by an individual or family on their own private property
- "Public" refers to:
 - Cemeteries owned and operated by a governmental entity
 - Abandoned private cemeteries for which a government entity has assumed full legal responsibility

FEMA Reinterment Assistance for Private Cemeteries

- Individuals may apply for FEMA reinterment assistance when the cost of reinterment is the legal responsibility of the individual, and not the cemetery or other entity.
- Individuals who maintain a cemetery on their own private property may be eligible for reinterment assistance through the Other Needs Assistance provision of FEMA's Individuals and Households Program. In order to be considered for reinterment assistance from FEMA, individuals must register with FEMA and provide the following documentation:
 - A signed statement from a state, local, territorial, or tribal government licensed official stating that the disinterment was a direct result of the disaster.
 - Receipts or verifiable estimates for reinterment expenses that prove the cost for reinterment are the responsibility of the individual requesting FEMA assistance.

- Documentation proving that the disinterment occurred in a privately-owned, licensed cemetery or burial facility (such as an association, community cemetery, or church) and the cemetery or burial facility is not responsible for reintering the displaced remains or burial vessels.
 - FEMA staff may coordinate with the respective state, local, territorial, or tribal government to obtain other required documentation.
- Any applicable documentation of burial insurance or prior reinterment assistance from any voluntary or government agency, or other entities.
- Individuals may register with FEMA online at DisasterAssistance.gov, by downloading the FEMA mobile app, or by calling FEMA's Helpline at 1-800-621-3362.
- Individuals eligible for reinterment assistance may be reimbursed for:
 - Transferring remains
 - Caskets, containers, vaults or urns that were damaged
 - Markers or headstones that were damaged
 - Necessary costs related to identifying remains
 - Necessary work at the gravesite to reinter remains
 - Funeral services (limited to the preparation and use of facilities to prepare the remains for reinterment);
- Individuals who receive FEMA reinterment assistance are responsible for abiding by any applicable local, county, or state laws or ordinances regarding human remains and their interment.

FEMA Reinterment Assistance for Public Cemeteries

- Public cemeteries may be eligible for FEMA reinterment assistance through FEMA's Public Assistance program.
- In order to be considered for FEMA reinterment assistance through the Public Assistance program, the owner and/or operator of the public cemetery must apply via www.screcoverygrants.org and follow the link for Hurricane Matthew by selecting APPLY NOW
- Owners and/or operators of public cemeteries who receive FEMA reinterment assistance are responsible for abiding by any applicable local, county, or state laws or ordinances regarding human remains and their interment.

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