

### **FEMA, SBA may offer help with privately owned roads**

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**OKLAHOMA CITY** – The recent severe storms, floods, straight-line winds and tornadoes occurring May 5 through June 4 damaged public and private roads and bridges.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) may be able to help when repairing privately owned access roads and bridges.

FEMA's Individual Assistance program could cover the expenses of repairing privately owned access roads if the following criteria are met:

- It is the applicant's primary residence;
- It is the only access to the property;
- It is impossible to access the home with the damaged infrastructure; or
- The safety of the occupants could be adversely affected.

SBA is FEMA's federal partner in disaster recovery, and may also help. Private property owners, established homeowner associations and properties governed by covenant may apply for a low-interest disaster loans directly through SBA. These funds can be used to repair or replace private roads and bridges. Privately owned access roads owned by homeowner associations may apply directly to the SBA.

Homeowners who jointly own access roads and bridges may also be eligible for repair grants or SBA loans under certain circumstances. In some cases, sharing the cost of repairs with funds

obtained through a combination of FEMA, SBA loans and private funds may be another option. The affected homeowners should each register with FEMA individually.

Survivors can apply for state and federal assistance online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) or by calling

**800-621-FEMA (3362)**

or

**(TTY) 800-462-7585**

. Those who use 711-Relay or Video Relay Services can call

**800-621-3362**

to register

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Each request for private road or bridge repair assistance is evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Repair awards through Individual Assistance funding are for disaster-related damages and will not include improvements to the road's pre-disaster condition, unless improvements are required by current local or state building codes or ordinances.

To register online visit [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) , by phone at toll-free **800-621-3362** or **(TTY) 1-800-462-7585**

, or via smartphone or tablet at

**m.fema.gov**

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For more information on Oklahoma disaster recovery, click <http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4222> or visit OEM at

[www.oem.ok.gov](http://www.oem.ok.gov)

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