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For Immediate Public Release:

Montgomery County has been notified that the federal government has included it in its federal disaster declaration for Texas, opening the door for individual assistance funds to begin flowing to eligible residents.

The disaster declaration was expanded at the request of Montgomery County and the state of Texas, said County Judge Craig Doyal.

"We are very pleased that the federal government has responded so quickly to our disaster declaration; this step will help ensure that eligible residents get the help they need to get back on their feet," Judge Doyal said.

The declarations were made as a result of the severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds and flooding that occurred between May 4, 2015 and June 19, 2015, according to the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

On June 15 Judge Doyal issued a local disaster declaration and submitted a request for state and federal assistance to the governor.

On June 22, 2015 Montgomery County was added to the State Disaster Declaration by Gov. Greg Abbott.

Since the county has been presidentially declared for Individual Assistance, FEMA inspectors will then begin making appointments with residents who applied for assistance, said Nicky Kelly, deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for Montgomery County.

The inspector will set up a date and time to meet with the home owner and will go over what documentation needs to be provided for proof of residency. A fact sheet is attached to explain the process in more detail and answer frequently asked questions. Residents who have not already registered can do so by calling FEMA at 1- 800-621-FEMA(3362) or by visiting their website at www.disasterassistance.gov.

A physical location for a disaster recovery center will be set up in Montgomery County once an appropriate location is established by the State and FEMA, Kelly said. This location will be released to the public once it is determined and ready for operation. This location will provide a face to face contact for disaster survivors to go and speak with representatives from the State and FEMA.

If residents are denied assistance from FEMA, they may appeal that decision. In addition, they would then be eligible to apply for assistance from the Small Business Administration. Montgomery County already had been added to the Small Business Administration (SBA) declaration due to being a contiguous county with Harris County. Information concerning the application process for the SBA assistance can be found on the Montgomery County OEM website at www.mctxoem.org.