

Greetings to all my fellow Sons members,

I hope this article finds you well and on good terms, but if not, please know that we Sons are here for you. If you yourself or your post home have been damaged by declared natural disasters, this program can help you with financial or personal item needs until you are back on your feet. In this article, I'll tell you what you need to do as well as the requirements to receive the assistance. Most of the information provided here comes directly from the National American Legion website at [www.legion.org/emergency](http://www.legion.org/emergency).

The Preamble to our Constitution sums up our theme of the National Emergency Fund "...devotion to mutual helpfulness." This is more than just simple words, it's our pledge of support to Legionnaires and their families. Since the early '20's, The American Legion has been actively involved in meeting the needs of both the community and members in the wake of disasters such as the hurricanes in Missouri, Florida, Louisiana and other Southern states; tornadoes in Iowa last summer and other upper Midwest areas; floods in Texas a few years ago in the Houston area; earthquakes in California and wildfires also in California, Nevada and the great Yellowstone fires in Wyoming, Montana and parts of Eastern Idaho.

The National Emergency Fund, created in 1989 in response to Hurricane Hugo, has provide more than \$8 million in direct financial aid to American Legion family members and post homes. By providing this monetary help, the N.E.F. has stopped affected post homes from shutting its doors for good and allowed American Legion Family members to recoup from tragedy.

The fund provides up to \$3,000 for qualified Legion Family members and up to \$10,000 for Legion post homes. The eligibility requirements are as follows:

1. The applicant must have been displaced from their primary residence due to damages caused by a declared natural disaster.
2. The applicant must submit copies of all receipts of items required to meets right away needs such as temporary housing, food, water, diapers, clothing etc. during the period immediately following the declared natural disaster.
3. The members membership must be active at the time of the disaster and also at the time of the application.

To submit an application for help, to make a donation to the NEF or for further information, please go to [legion.org/emergency](http://legion.org/emergency) to learn more about the National Emergency Fund.

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