



**State of West Virginia
Emergency Management Division**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE DATE: August 17, 2026

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Disaster Recovery Centers to Open in Pleasants and Ritchie Counties Tuesday

Following the federal major disaster declaration add-on, Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) are to open in the affected communities of Pleasants and Ritchie counties, tomorrow, August 18, 2026 and remain open throughout the week.

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Severe storms including tornadoes and flash flooding left communities recovering from significant damage, prompting an expedited approval for a major federal disaster declaration through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This disaster declaration includes Lewis, Pleasants, Ritchie and Upshur counties after severe weather at the end of July. Starting tomorrow, there will be Disaster Recovery Centers open to the public in Pleasants and Ritchie counties in addition to the previously established centers in Upshur and Lewis.

These DRCs are staffed with officials from FEMA, the Small Business Administration, and state and local representatives to provide assistance in the recovery process for affected individuals. Individuals and households within the declared counties are eligible to apply for the FEMA Individual Assistance (IA) program which can provide financial assistance for recovery. At these locations, individuals will be able to receive assistance applying for federal aid and obtain answers to questions they may have regarding the process.

Disaster Recovery Centers:

Pleasants County

*Pleasants County Senior Center
209 2nd St. St. Mary's, WV 26170*

Hours of Operation: Tuesday, August 18, 2026-Saturday, August 22, 2026, from 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. daily

Ritchie County

*Auburn Baptist Church
11849 Auburn Rd. Auburn, WV 26325*

Hours of Operation: Tuesday, August 18, 2026-Saturday, August 22, 2026, from 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. daily

Survivors are encouraged to visit sites in-person for assistance, but are also reminded that applications for disaster financial assistance are available at [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov) or via the helpline at 800-621-3362.

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