



**FEMA**

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# News Release

## Get Proper Permits Before Rebuilding

**DES MOINES, Iowa** – No doubt you're eager to get back into your house and make it your home again. But before you pick up that nail gun or wield that sledge hammer, make sure you have all the permits you'll need to begin work.

Permits may be required for every part of your home from roofs, walls and siding to plumbing, septic systems and heating/air conditioning systems.

The first thing you should do is to contact your local building official to determine whether there are special considerations for rebuilding. That official can work with you or your contractor to ensure that any permits you need are properly issued and filed, and the necessary inspections are completed.

Permits protect owners, residents, communities and buildings by making sure repairs and/or construction meet current building codes, standards, floodplain ordinances and construction techniques. Permits also provide a permanent record of compliance with elevation and/or retrofitting requirements, which is useful information when selling the building or obtaining flood insurance coverage.

For more information on the Iowa disaster and a variety of recovery resources, log on to: [www.floods2019.iowa.gov](http://www.floods2019.iowa.gov) or call 2-1-1. Additional information can be found at [www.fema.gov/disaster/4421](http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4421).

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*FEMA's mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters.*

*Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has faced discrimination or needs help with accessible communication, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-3362. Multilingual operators are available.*