

□ ***December 15 new deadline for those affected by Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee***

UTICA, N.Y. – U.S. Representative Richard Hanna (NY-24) announced today that New Yorkers now have until Dec. 15, 2011 to register for federal assistance if they suffered damages from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.

At the request of New York state, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has extended the registration deadline for anyone who has not yet registered.

"I urge anyone who was affected by either storm to call FEMA today if they need assistance," Hanna said. "This deadline is now extended and people shouldn't wait any longer if they need to register."

To register:

Call the FEMA Helpline at **800-621-3362**. Phone lines are open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET, seven days a week until further notice.

People with hearing disabilities can use the TTY number, **800-462-7585**.

Applicants can also register online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or with any web-enabled mobile device or smartphone at

m.fema.gov

. Follow the link to "apply online for federal assistance."

According to FEMA officials: Disaster assistance to individuals could include grants to help pay for temporary housing needs, essential home repairs and other serious disaster-related expenses not covered by insurance or other sources. Low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) are also available for homeowners, renters and business owners to repair or replace real or personal property.