

UTICA, N.Y. – As New Yorkers begin to prepare tax returns, **U.S. Rep. Richard Hanna** today reminded those affected by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee that they may be eligible for tax relief due to storm-related damages.

"The storms may be long gone, but the damage is still very real for residents and business owners who were affected by Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee – or both," **Hanna said**. "There are tax relief programs for which New Yorkers may be eligible and my office stands ready to assist in any way."

COUNTIES IN THE 24TH DISTRICT THAT ARE ELIGIBLE:

Hurricane Irene:

Those who reside or own a business in **Herkimer** or **Otsego** counties may be eligible.

Tropical Storm Lee:

Those who reside or own a business in **Broome, Herkimer, Oneida, Otsego** or **Tioga** counties may be eligible.

AMONG THE WAYS YOU MAY QUALIFY:

- Individuals and businesses that sustained damage may be eligible to deduct storm-related losses from their income tax returns
- Taxpayers who reside or have a business in a disaster area may be eligible for extended

deadlines from the IRS

- Taxpayers who lost tax documents due to Irene may be eligible to receive replacement documents free of charge

ISSUE AT A GLANCE

Storm Recovery Resources for Tax Season

As tax filing season approaches, New Yorkers impacted by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm should be aware that they may be eligible for tax relief.

Did you suffer property damage from the storms?

You will need to report losses on your 2011 federal tax return. You may be eligible for tax relief related to these losses.

What type of tax relief might be available for flood victims?

- Filing extensions
- Disaster-related casualty loss claims

- Waiver of fees and expedited requests of previous tax returns

Is tax relief available for business impacted by the flood?

Business owners may elect to deduct qualified expenses. See the IRS website Publication 2194B: Disaster Losses Kit for Businesses for more information.

Where to go for more information about tax relief for individuals?

Contact the IRS:

To reach the toll-free disaster hotline dial 1-866-562-5227, or by follow these links to the IRS website:

Irene: [click here](#)

Lee: [click here](#)

Contact one of Rep. Hanna's offices:

Utica: 315-724-9740; Cortland: 607-756-2470; Auburn: 315-252-6700.

Do you need help filing your taxes?

Free Tax Preparation and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Sites:

VITA is a free, IRS-sponsored program to help low- and middle-income workers have their taxes prepared and filed electronically at no cost. VITA also ensures that workers receive all the tax credits to which they are entitled.

Every county in the state has at least one VITA site. [Click here to find a location in your county](#)