

Natural Disaster Relief Refund: Sevier County Wildfires

People Receiving Disaster Relief from FEMA May Receive a Sales Tax Refund on Purchases of Certain Items

Individuals who receive disaster assistance from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a result of the Sevier County fires can receive a refund for Tennessee sales tax paid on certain items. Items eligible for the sales tax refund include major appliances and residential furniture (purchased to replace damaged or destroyed items used in the individual's primary residence) and residential building supplies (used for the purposes of restoration, repair, replacement, or rebuilding the individual's primary residence).

The maximum amount of refund available to any one residence is \$2,500. Any person filing a claim for refund must include documentation verifying the assistance they received from FEMA.

People filing a claim for refund may also include the Tennessee sales or use tax their contractor paid on eligible items and used when making repairs to their home. People affected by the disaster should ask their contractor to provide them with an invoice listing the items purchased and the amount of Tennessee sales tax the contractor paid on those purchases.

Steps for Claiming a Refund

A person receiving FEMA assistance can only file *one* claim per residence. The claim should include all sales and use tax paid, up to \$2,500, to all retailers for any eligible items. The claim for refund also must be filed within *one year* from the date on the FEMA decision letter, and it should only include

eligible items purchased *after* the date of the disaster. To file a refund claim, follow these steps:

- 1) Gather a copy of your FEMA decision letter and all of your receipts and invoices showing payment of Tennessee sales tax on eligible items. Include contractor invoices, if applicable, and any other payment documents if store receipts are not available.
- 2) Complete the [Natural Disaster Claim for Refund](#) form, making sure that all lines are completed and legible. Attach additional schedules as necessary.
- 3) In March 2017, you will be able to file your claim for refund online, using the Department's new tax filing website, Tennessee Taxpayer Access Point (TNTAP). You can also mail the completed form *and* a *copy* of your FEMA decision letter to:

ATTN: Natural Disaster Refund Claim
Tennessee Department of Revenue
Andrew Jackson State Office Building
Nashville, TN 37242
- 4) Keep all receipts and invoices for three years from December 31 of the year in which the claim was filed. Do not send receipts and invoices with the claim for refund. If needed, the Department will request the receipts and invoices.

Items Eligible for a Sales Tax Refund

The items that are eligible for a sales tax refund are major appliances purchased for \$3,200 or less, residential furniture purchased for \$3,200 or less, and residential building supplies purchased for \$500 or less.

Items that are not eligible for a sales tax refund include major appliances purchased for more than \$3,200, residential furniture purchased for more than \$3,200, and residential building supplies purchased for more than \$500.

You can read a detailed list of [eligible and ineligible items here](#).

For More Information

Visit www.tn.gov/revenue. Click on Revenue Help to search for answers or to submit an information request to one of our agents.

References

Tenn. Code Ann. § 67-6-396