

Nebraska Severe Storms, Tornadoes, and Flooding – FEMA-1770-DR

Declared June 20, 2008

On June 13, 2008, Governor Dave Heineman requested a major disaster declaration due to severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, and flooding beginning on May 22, 2008, and continuing. The Governor requested a declaration for Individual Assistance for 21 counties, Public Assistance for 53 counties, and Hazard Mitigation for all counties. During the period of June 2-11, 2008, joint Federal, State, and local Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) were conducted in the requested counties and are summarized below. PDAs estimate damages immediately after an event and are considered, along with several other factors, in determining whether a disaster is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local governments, and that Federal assistance is necessary.¹

On June 20, 2008, President Bush declared that a major disaster exists in the State of Nebraska. This declaration made Individual Assistance requested by the Governor available to affected individuals and households in Buffalo, Butler, Colfax, Dawson, Douglas, Gage, Hamilton, Jefferson, Kearney, Platte, Richardson, Sarpy, and Saunders Counties. This declaration also made Public Assistance requested by the Governor available to State and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding in Adams, Blaine, Boone, Boyd, Brown, Buffalo, Burt, Butler, Cass, Chase, Colfax, Cuming, Custer, Dawson, Douglas, Fillmore, Frontier, Furnas, Gage, Garfield, Gosper, Hall, Hamilton, Hayes, Holt, Howard, Jefferson, Keya Paha, Lancaster, Lincoln, Logan, Loup, Merrick, McPherson, Nance, Otoe, Phelps, Platte, Polk, Red Willow, Richardson, Rock, Saline, Saunders, Sarpy, Seward, Sherman, Stanton, Thayer, Thomas, Thurston, Webster, and York Counties. Finally, this declaration made Hazard Mitigation Grant Program assistance requested by the Governor available for hazard mitigation measures statewide.²

Summary of Damage Assessment Information Used in Determining Whether to Declare a Major Disaster

Individual Assistance

- Total Number of Residences Impacted:³ 1,605
 - Destroyed - 36
 - Major Damage - 95
 - Minor Damage - 301
 - Affected - 1,173

- Percentage of insured residences:⁴ (25%)
- Percentage of low income households:⁵ (13%)
- Percentage of elderly households:⁶ -
- Total Individual Assistance cost estimate: \$4,575,806

Public Assistance

- Primary Impact: Damage to utilities
- Total Public Assistance cost estimate: \$22,420,560
- Statewide per capita impact:⁷ \$13.10
- Statewide per capita impact indicator:⁸ \$1.24
- Countywide per capita impact: Adams County (\$6.89), Blaine County (\$30.87), Boone County (\$53.58), Boyd County (\$94.39), Brown County (\$7.15), Buffalo County (\$89.34), Burt County (\$17.49), Butler County (\$49.06), Cass County (\$3.74), Chase County (\$4.86), Colfax County (\$32.32), Cuming County (\$16.23), Custer County (\$9.44), Dawson County (\$19.65), Douglas County (\$3.52), Fillmore County (\$23.98), Frontier County (\$43.89), Furnas County (\$4.70), Gage County (\$12.28), Garfield County (\$32.68), Gosper County (\$103.13), Hall County (\$5.64), Hamilton County (\$581.47), Hayes County (\$51.69), Holt County (\$12.94), Howard County (\$12.36), Jefferson County (\$62.19), Keya Paha County (\$83.11), Lancaster County (\$3.39), Lincoln County (\$5.35), Logan County (\$144.06), Loup County (\$30.20), Merrick County (\$12.33), McPherson County (\$61.91), Nance County (\$94.79), Otoe County (\$50.84), Phelps County (\$6.98), Platte County (\$8.77), Polk County (\$4.91), Red Willow County (\$19.81), Richardson County (\$59.10), Rock County (\$40.89), Saline County (\$35.11), Saunders County (\$82.60), Sarpy County (\$3.45), Seward County (\$6.71), Sherman County (\$5.73), Stanton County (\$5.83), Thayer County (\$33.98), Thomas County (\$41.84), Thurston County (\$7.15), Webster County (\$3.46), and York County (\$9.65).
- Countywide per capita impact indicator:⁹ \$3.11

¹ The preliminary damage assessment (PDA) process is a mechanism used to determine the impact and magnitude of damage and resulting needs of individuals, businesses, public sector, and community as a whole. Information collected is used by the State as a basis for the Governor's request for a major disaster or emergency declaration, and by the President in determining a response to the Governor's request (44 CFR § 206.33).

² When a Governor's request for major disaster assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended (Stafford Act) is under review, a number of primary factors are considered to determine whether assistance is warranted. These factors are outlined in FEMA's regulations (44 CFR § 206.48). The President has ultimate discretion and decision making authority to declare major disasters and emergencies under the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. § 5170 and § 5191).

³ Degree of damage to impacted residences:

- Destroyed – total loss of structure, structure is not economically feasible to repair, or complete failure to major structural components (e.g., collapse of basement walls/foundation, walls or roof);
- Major Damage – substantial failure to structural elements of residence (e.g., walls, floors, foundation), or damage that will take more than 30 days to repair;
- Minor Damage – home is damaged and uninhabitable, but may be made habitable in short period of time with repairs; and
- Affected – some damage to the structure and contents, but still habitable.

⁴ By law, Federal disaster assistance cannot duplicate insurance coverage (44 CFR § 206.48(b)(5)).

⁵ Special populations, such as low-income, the elderly, or the unemployed may indicate a greater need for assistance (44 CFR § 206.48(b)(3)).

⁶ Ibid (44 CFR § 206.48(b)(3)).

⁷ Based on State population in the 2000 Census.

⁸ Statewide Per Capita Impact Indicator for FY08, *Federal Register*, October 1, 2007.

⁹ Countywide Per Capita Impact Indicator for FY08, *Federal Register*, October 1, 2007.