



TERRY E. BRANSTAD
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KIM REYNOLDS
LT. GOVERNOR

July 26, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Through: Ms. Beth Freeman, Regional Director
FEMA Region VII
9221 Ward Parkway, Suite 300
Kansas City, MO 64114

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5208 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request you declare a major disaster for Benton, Marshall, Story, and Tama counties in the State of Iowa as a result of a severe weather that has produced hail, heavy rains, high winds, and thunderstorms beginning on July 9, 2011 and continuing.

On July 9th, a weak frontal boundary entered into Iowa. The interaction of the warmer air of the high pressure boundary and the surrounding cooler air resulted in repeated development of strong to severe storms along the outer rim of the high pressure area creating a weather pattern known as a 'Ring of Fire'. On July 10, high winds exceeding 100 mph, in a phenomenon known as a derecho, severely impacted Benton, Marshall, Story, and Tama counties. Flooding is occurring in both Dickinson and Clay counties, as a result of heavy rainfall received on July 13, 2011. This has caused road closures, infrastructure, and property damage. On July 15, severe storms again moved through the state, causing flash flooding in Cerro Gordo, Floyd, and Worth Counties. Additional severe storms on July 22 caused eight injuries when a tree fell onto an occupied vehicle in Jones County. This storm and associated high winds also caused damage in Black Hawk, Butler, Grundy, Hardin, Jasper, Marion, and Poweshiek counties. The elevated risk of additional strong and severe storms and subsequent damages across Iowa persists while this weather pattern remains in the area.

In response to the situation, I have taken appropriate actions under State law and directed the execution of the Iowa Emergency Response Plan on July 11, 2011 in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act.

A State of Iowa Proclamation of Disaster Emergency was issued on July 11, 2011 for Benton and Tama counties. On July 13, a State of Iowa Proclamation of Disaster Emergency was issued for Marshall and Story Counties. On July 13, I requested a joint federal, state, and local Preliminary Damage Assessment for: Benton, Marshall, Story, and Tama counties.

Additionally, on July 13 I enacted the State Individual Assistance Grant Program in Marshall and Tama Counties to assist citizens in recovering from the severe storm. I declared a state of disaster emergency in Dickinson County on July 18 in order to authorize the implementation of the state's individual assistance program. Lastly, I enacted the State Individual Assistance Grant Program in Benton County on July 22.

Listed below are the types of affected facilities and the adverse affects to the public and private sectors:

- Fatalities/Injuries:
 - With electrical services not completely restored and temperatures nearing 100°F daily, heat related injuries have been a major concern. Temporary cooling centers have been established in the cities of Garwin and Clutier in Tama County. Since the storm, over 300 people a day have utilized the cooling centers' services in Tama County. Additional cooling centers have also been established in the city of Vinton in Benton County (2), and Marshalltown, Marshall County (1).
 - The American Red Cross (ARC) shelter in Vinton, Benton County, housed roughly 30 residents for the first three nights following the storm.
- Critical Facilities:
 - Two fire stations within 18 miles of each other were destroyed in the storm. The fire stations in the city of Garrison in Benton County, and Clutier in Tama County were destroyed.
 - The city's communication/emergency dispatch tower in Clutier, Tama County, was heavily damaged.
 - Emergency radio communication equipment at the Tama County courthouse in the city of Tama was damaged as a result of the storm.
 - The hospital and Old Main buildings at the Iowa Braille and Sight-Saving School outside of the city of Vinton in Benton County suffered significant roof and exterior damage. Overall storm damage to the school is estimated at \$4.5 million.
 - The Benton County Hospital, located in the city of Vinton, has been operating using its emergency generator since the storm. The hospital has been diverting patients to hospitals in Cedar Rapids, Linn County until full power can be restored. This requires roughly a 45 minute drive for hospital care.
 - The roof at the Center Point-Urbana School District's elementary school in the city of Urbana, Benton County, was torn off from high winds in the storm.

- The roof from the library in the city of Garrison in Benton County was lost to the storm.
- Agriculture: Derecho winds damaged and destroyed farm dwellings, outbuildings, equipment, crops, and livestock. Much of the damaged crops have naturally recovered in the period since the storm. However, many private grain storage bins were damaged due to the high winds. Livestock losses were scattered as confinement facilities were damaged and grazing livestock losses minimal.
- Telecommunication: As a result of the high winds, telephone and cellular services were interrupted throughout the affected counties. Most notably, the switch in Chelsea, Tama County, went into Emergency Stand Alone status due to a loss of power to the facility. Battery backup systems had also been exhausted, which caused an interruption in voice and E911 services. Technicians were able to temporarily restore power through the use of an emergency generator delivered to the site.
- Utilities: Power outages were across the affected area, with over 43,000 meters without power following the storm. The following are reported outages as a result of the storm by each service provider:

Provider	Meters without power
Alliant Energy*	32,887
Consumers Energy	2,748
East-Central Iowa Power Cooperative	3,000
Grundy County Rural Electric Cooperative	400
T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative	1,801
Vinton Municipal Utility	2,579
TOTAL	43,415

*Note that Alliant Energy outages include some outages in Linn County.

Water service was also affected as water towers, lift stations, and pumping facilities were damaged or without power. The following damages were reported:

- The Central Iowa Water Association reported that 58 pumping stations, lift stations and water towers were offline as a result of the storm in Marshall, Story, and Tama counties.
- The Poweshiek Water Association indicates that ten pumping stations, lift stations and water towers were offline as a result of the storm in Benton and Tama counties. The water treatment plant in Tama, Tama County was also temporarily offline.

A gas leak that was caused by storm damage forced the evacuation of 585 citizens from the city of Garwin in Tama County. Alliant Energy was able to shut off gas service to the city a few hours later, with citizens returning shortly thereafter.

Additionally, the counties for which I am requesting a declaration are also still recovering from recent presidentially-declared disasters. While great progress has been made in these counties, each one is still working through two to four open disasters. The latest round of damage only serves to cause additional stress to these counties.

The following information is furnished on the nature and amount of State and local resources that have been or will be used to alleviate the conditions of this disaster: The State Emergency Operations Center was already operational in response to the Missouri River flooding (DR-1998) and was staffed by the operations section and public information staff of the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) and members of the Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council, as well as the 24-hour duty officer on call after normal working hours. Resources were shifted to assist local officials with the July 10, 2011 storms in the Benton, Marshall, Story, and Tama counties. Other departments and agencies that responded were as follows:

- Iowa Department of Transportation continues to provide personnel and heavy equipment for clearing and transportation of debris.
- Iowa Department of Corrections is providing inmates to assist in debris removal.
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources is providing debris management/burn site expertise.
- The American Red Cross (ARC) has opened a shelter in the city of Vinton, Benton County, Iowa to house displaced residents. On July 13, twelve displaced citizens utilized the shelters. The ARC has also provided canteen and sheltering services in the communities of Dysart, Garwin, and Clutier in Tama County.
- Buchanan County continues to provide one chipper/shredder for debris removal to Benton County.
- Johnson County is providing four chipper/shredders and two chain saws to Benton County.

I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local governments and that supplementary Federal assistance is necessary. I am requesting Public Assistance for all categories in the counties of Benton, Marshall, Story, and Tama counties. I am also requesting Hazard Mitigation "Statewide".

Preliminary estimates of the types and amount of assistance needed under the Stafford Act are tabulated in Enclosure B. The Governor's Certification is included in Enclosure D.

I certify that for this major disaster, the state and local governments will assume all applicable non-Federal Share of costs required by the Stafford Act. Total non-federal expenditures are expected to exceed \$2,647,522 in accordance with the table in Enclosure D.

The State of Iowa has been proactive in hazard mitigation planning activities for many years. The State's planning process is driven by Section 322 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and is synchronized through the coordination and integration of local hazard

mitigation planning with interagency planning of the State Hazard Mitigation Team. The State has an approved Enhanced State Mitigation Plan through September 18, 2013.

While I do not currently foresee the need for Direct Federal Assistance, I nevertheless make the request and if Direct Federal Assistance is provided, agree to the following stipulations:

In accordance with 44 CFR § 206.208, the State of Iowa agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance:

1. Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements and rights-of-ways necessary to accomplish the approved work;
2. Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work, and shall indemnify the Federal Government against any claims arising from such work;
3. Provide reimbursement to FEMA for the non-Federal share of the cost of such work in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State Agreement; and
4. Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

In addition, I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health, and safety.

Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b & 5173, the State agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

I have designated Patrick J. Hall as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in damage assessments and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,



Terry E. Branstad
Governor of Iowa

Enclosures

ENCLOSURE B TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Requirements for Public Assistance
Under the Stafford Act

CATEGORY

County (5)	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Benton	\$3,796,600	\$1,449,131	\$10,000	\$0	\$1,004,750	\$1,208,121	\$0	\$7,468,602
Marshall	\$246,095	\$6,282	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$1,500	\$369,459	\$500	\$683,836
Story	\$333,852	\$1,400	\$0	\$0	\$10,750	\$116,037	\$0	\$462,039
Tama	\$500,079	\$79,685	\$0	\$0	\$39,350	\$1,307,004	\$39,850	\$1,965,968
Statewide	\$0	\$9,640	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,640
TOTALS	\$4,876,626	\$1,546,138	\$40,000	\$30,000	\$1,056,350	\$3,000,621	\$40,350	\$10,590,085

Note: Estimates are to reflect total eligible costs before any cost sharing.

ENCLOSURE D TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Governor's Certification

I certify that for this current disaster, State and local government expenditures and obligations will include the non-Federal share and costs required by the Stafford Act. As stated in my basic letter, and based on information available at this time, tabulation of these estimated expenditures and obligations are as follows:

CATEGORY OF ASSISTANCE	AMOUNT	
	STATE	LOCAL
Individual Assistance:		
“Other Assistance” under the Individual and Households Program	\$ 0	\$ 0
Other (specify)		
Total:	\$ 0	\$ 0
Public Assistance:		
Category A – Debris Removal	\$487,663	\$731,494
Category B – Emergency Protective Measures	\$154,614	\$231,921
Category C – Roads and Bridges	\$4,000	\$6,000
Category D – Water Control Facilities	\$3,000	\$4,500
Category E – Buildings and Equipment	\$105,635	\$158,453
Category F – Utilities	\$300,062	\$450,093
Category G – Other (Parks, Recreational Facilities, etc.)	\$4,035	\$6,053
Total:	\$1,059,009	\$1,588,513
Grand Total:	\$1,059,009	\$1,588,513