

Vermont – Severe Storms and Flooding FEMA-4043-DR

Declared November 8, 2011

On May 27, 2011, Governor Peter Shumlin requested a major disaster declaration due to severe storms and flooding beginning on April 23, 2011, and continuing. The Governor requested a declaration for Individual Assistance for nine counties, Public Assistance for 10 counties, and Hazard Mitigation statewide. The Governor further requested direct Federal assistance. On June 3, 2011, Governor Shumlin amended his request to include Washington County for Individual Assistance and Caledonia County for Public Assistance. Summarized below are the joint federal, state, and local government Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) that were conducted in Windham County on May 25, 2011, in Franklin County on July 9, 2011 and August 9, 2011, and in Washington County on August 11, 2011. 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

FEMA-1995-DR was declared on June 15, 2011, as a result of severe storms and flooding during the period of April 23 to May 9, 2011, and FEMA-4001-DR was declared on July 8, 2011, as a result of severe storms and flooding during the period of May 26-27, 2011. On November 8, 2011, President Obama declared that a major disaster exists in the State of Vermont as a result of severe storms and flooding on May 20, 2011. This declaration 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 in Franklin, Washington, and Windham Counties. This declaration also 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 - (*Not requested*)

- Total Number of Residences Impacted:³ -
 - Destroyed - -
 - Major Damage - -
 - Minor Damage - -
 - Affected - -

- Percentage of insured residences:⁴ -
- Percentage of low income households:⁵ -
- Percentage of elderly households:⁶ -
- Total Individual Assistance cost estimate: N/A

Public Assistance

- Primary Impact: Damage to roads and bridges
- Total Public Assistance cost estimate: \$1,025,423
- Statewide per capita impact:⁷ \$1.64
- Statewide per capita impact indicator:⁸ \$1.35
- Countywide per capita impact: Franklin County (\$10.51), Washington County (\$5.50), Windham County (\$4.41)
- Countywide per capita impact indicator:⁹ \$3.39

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 2010 Census.

⁸ Statewide Per Capita Impact Indicator for FY12, *Federal Register*, October 1, 2011.

⁹ Countywide Per Capita Impact Indicator for FY12, *Federal Register*, October 1, 2011.