



President Declares Major Disaster For New Jersey

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» More Information on New Jersey Severe Storms and Flooding

WASHINGTON - The head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) today announced that federal disaster aid has been made available for the State of New Jersey. The assistance will supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on June 23, 2006, and continuing.

FEMA Director R. David Paulison said the assistance was authorized under a major disaster declaration issued for the State of New Jersey by President Bush. The President's action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in Hunterdon, Mercer, and Warren counties.

The assistance, to be coordinated by FEMA, can include grants to help pay for temporary housing, home repairs and other serious disaster-related expenses. Low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration also will be available to cover residential and business losses not fully compensated by insurance.

Federal funding is also available to State and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis in the counties of Hunterdon, Mercer, Sussex, and Warren for debris removal and emergency protective measures, including direct Federal assistance.

Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

Paulison named Peter J. Martinasco as the Federal Coordinating Officer for Federal recovery operations in the affected area. Martinasco said that additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the State and warranted by the results of further damage assessments.

Residents and business owners who sustained losses in the designated counties can begin applying for assistance tomorrow by registering online at <http://www.fema.gov> or by calling **1-800-621-FEMA(3362)** or **1-800-462-7585 (TTY)** for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (local time) seven days a week until further notice.

FEMA manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.