



TERRY E. BRANSTAD
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KIM REYNOLDS
LT. GOVERNOR

May 22, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Regional Administrator Beth Freeman
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. § 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), as implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Iowa as a result of severe weather that produced damaging winds, heavy rains, thunderstorms, and snow resulting in flooding beginning on April 17, 2013 and ending April 30, 2013, causing significant damages to public infrastructure and private property.

GENERAL FACTS OF THIS DISASTER.

According to the National Weather Service, severe storms moved into the State of Iowa on Wednesday, April 17, 2013, including heavy rains and thunderstorms resulting in flash and continued flooding. Flood waters in Iowa finally receded to below flood stage on April 30.

The Iowa State Climatologist reports that previous rainfall records in Iowa, Monroe, and Wapello Counties for April were exceeded as a result of the heavy rains on April 17. The most significant rainfall occurred in Monroe County, which received 10.10 inches of precipitation in April, exceeding the 113 year-old record for April of 7.44 inches.

According to the Water Control Center of the Rock Island District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Des Moines River at Keosauqua, Van Buren County, reached a peak water level of over three feet above flood stage on April 19. The Mississippi River at Keokuk, Lee County, Iowa reached its peak flood level on April 23, with flows exceeding the major flood stage of 293,000 cubic feet per second. Flood levels in the Mississippi River in Iowa remained until April 30, before returning to levels below flood stage.

In response to the situation, I have taken appropriate actions pursuant to Iowa Code §29C.6 and directed the execution of the Iowa Emergency Response Plan effective April 17, 2013 in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act.

A State of Iowa Proclamation of Disaster Emergency effective April 17, 2013, was issued for Cedar, Johnson, Mahaska, Scott, and Washington Counties. This proclamation activated the Iowa Emergency Response Plan and the State Individual Assistance Program.

As flood waters continued to rise, it was determined that the extent of damages exceeded the local resources of three additional counties. Therefore, on April 22, 2013, an additional State of Iowa Proclamation of Disaster Emergency was issued for Iowa, Lee, and Muscatine Counties.

As this event continued, the resources of an additional 15 counties were exhausted. Accordingly, I issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency effective April 22, 2013, for Appanoose, Clinton, Davis, Decatur, Des Moines, Jefferson, Keokuk, Lucas, Marion, Monroe, Ringgold, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, and Wayne Counties.

Although in these Proclamations I declared a total of 23 counties as part of the State disaster emergency, I have since determined that the severity of the damage in 19 counties is so great that it required Joint Federal, State, and local Preliminary Damage Assessments. On May 6, 2013, the State of Iowa requested a Joint Federal, State, and local Preliminary Damage Assessment for 19 of the most severely impacted counties. These assessments commenced on May 13, 2013, and were concluded on May 17, 2013.

As a result of these joint assessments, I have determined that the severity of damages in 19 counties is such that Federal Assistance is needed.

ADDITIONAL DAMAGES.

The following is a continuation of the additional damages, impacts, and accessibility problems in the affected area and population described in sections eight and ten of the Request for Presidential Disaster (FEMA Form 010-0-13).

Fatalities, Injuries, and Evacuations.

- Rescuers from the Burlington Fire Department and the Des Moines County Sheriff's Office rescued a man from a vehicle that had been swept off a roadway by floodwaters on April 18. No injuries were reported.
- Liberty Township Fire and Rescue, Keokuk County, rescued a resident who was found clinging to a tree after their vehicle had been swept off the road by floodwaters. No injuries were reported.
- Two people were evacuated from the Bentonsport Campgrounds in Van Buren County.
- In the early morning hours of April 18, Wapello County Sheriff's Deputies assisted two people in evacuating their home.
- The American Red Cross opened a shelter in Scott County on April 18, with 11 people using the shelter until April 21.

- The River Valley Horse Camp along the Des Moines River near the City of Farmington, Van Buren County, was evacuated on April 19 due to rising waters. The camp consists of campsites, a year-round rental facility, riding trails, and over 100 horses on site.

Critical Facilities and Infrastructure.

- Due to several road closures attributed to the event, emergency response vehicles were forced to find alternative routes in responding to emergencies. This increased response times, and delayed critical emergency medical services.
- The Cedar County Engineer's office reported that detours in the affected area were up to 16 miles for several days.
- Keokuk County Emergency Management reported extensive road closures resulting in detours for emergency response. Detours added an additional 30 minutes to two hours to response times, depending on the location of the emergency.
- Primary communication lines into the Cedar County 911 answering center were severely damaged, causing them to utilize a secondary system for seven days until the primary system could be repaired.
- Emergency dispatch and 911 services in Appanoose, Henry, and Van Buren Counties were temporarily interrupted due to power outages. Once on-site backup power generators were started, the call centers were returned to full operation.
- Fiber optic data and telephone cables were washed out in Monroe County, resulting in outages of 911 answering services on April 18. Full operation was restored the next day.
- Davis County Hospital reported water in a computer room in the basement. Patient care was not impacted.
- The Creative World Child Development Center in the City of Iowa City, Johnson County, received damage to approximately a quarter of its facility, causing the facility to be closed for two days. This facility serves approximately 55 children.

Agriculture.

- Iowa is the national leader in corn, soybean, pork and egg production, and second nationally in red meat, net farm income, and overall agriculture exports. In 2011, Iowa agriculture contributed \$9.875 billion to Iowa's economy, or about 6.6% of Iowa's Gross Domestic Product. However, the combination of drought conditions in 2012, longer than normal winter conditions for this year, and flood waters inundating prime farmland has severely delayed planting thus putting the success of this year's crop in question. Floodwaters most likely have damaged soils by eroding topsoil thereby reducing the productivity of remaining topsoil. Sediments remaining after the flood waters recede may have further reduced yield potential (fallow syndrome) within the affected area. Damaged equipment, grain storage facilities, wells, drainage systems, and irrigation systems must be cleaned and repaired before agricultural productivity can return to normal operation. The full

extent of economic damages cannot be realized until this year's crops are planted and yields projected.

- It was reported in Davis County that a county road that was the sole point of access to a hog confinement facility was rendered impassable, preventing access to the facility. This situation put the facility's feed deliveries and animal care in peril.

Commercial and Transportation.

- Damages to many roads are extensive, with roadbeds washed away, road surface scouring from overtopping, culvert collapses, and significant bridge damage. These damages have rendered much of the affected roads impassable until repairs can be made. Damages to County and municipal roads and bridges in the affected area exceed \$4.9 million, with the most significant occurring in Ringgold County, where over \$820,000 in road and bridge damage was estimated to have occurred. Damages to roads and bridges throughout the affected area are severely impacting the ability of emergency response in the area, slowing agricultural operations including spring planting, traffic on farm to market roads, and delaying commercial cargo from reaching its destination.
- Cedar County closed for 24 hours due to a bridge abutment being scoured and eventually collapsing. Seven residences were inaccessible while the bridge was closed.
- A second bridge in Cedar County was closed for 27 days while Cedar County Engineers waited until conditions were safe enough for divers to enter the water and inspect the bridge for damages. This resulted in a five-mile detour for the approximately 50 vehicles that traverse the bridge for all 27 days that the bridge was closed.
- The Leland Jones Bridge in Davis County continues to be closed due to flood waters washing out a bridge abutment. The resulting detour of over four miles is detrimental to approximately 60 vehicles that are no longer able to utilize the bridge on a daily basis. It is unknown how long repairs to the bridge will take.
- The decking on a bridge in Iowa County fell 20 inches when flood waters eroded an embankment causing damage to the bridge's support piers. This bridge closure caused a detour of over four miles on a county road, slowing emergency response times, and affecting school bus routes in the area. This bridge averages 45 vehicles a day, and will remain closed until repairs can be made.
- Keokuk County reported approximately 30 road closures due to water overtopping roadways.
- U.S. Highway 34 in Lucas County was overtopped by floodwaters just south of the City of Lucas, and on the south side of the City of Chariton. This had detrimental impacts to emergency and commercial traffic statewide.
- A 28 by 200 feet long multi-plate culvert in Wapello County was completely destroyed by flood waters. The flooding also caused several smaller culverts to be destroyed up and downstream from the same location. This major washout trapped five residences until a detour route of three miles could be established. The roadway affected has an average traffic count of 180 vehicles per day,

including emergency vehicles and school busses. This road is expected to remain closed for an estimated 18 months. This washout also affected a Wapello Rural Water Association water main.

- In Wapello County, a bridge that carries approximately 190 vehicles daily was damaged, and is now open only to one lane. As a result of the damage, a three-ton weight limit has been put in place on the bridge. Many of the vehicles, including fire and rescue, school busses, agricultural traffic, and other traffic that traverse the bridge on a regular basis are over the three-ton limit. Therefore, these vehicles must take a six-mile detour to access the area affected.
- It is estimated that an additional \$1.49 million in damages occurred to federally funded highways in the affected area.
- With Mississippi River levels already elevated, railroad embargoes were in place starting on April 16 at the Mississippi River crossings in the City of Fort Madison, Lee County, and the City of Davenport, Scott County due to flooding. These railroad crossings are critical to the transport of grain, coal, and other cargo throughout the United States. Recent events only prolong closures to these critical lines.
- Randall Park, located in the City of Solon, Johnson County, is closed due to damages suffered from floodwaters. Playground equipment, volleyball courts and the park shelter were inundated with floodwater, contaminating sand, mulch, and playground surfaces.
- With parts of U.S. Highway 34 closed in Lucas County, commercial traffic from the Hy-Vee Distribution Center in the City of Chariton, Lucas County, used alternative routes. The only alternative route eastbound from the distribution center took Hy-Vee trucks through the center of the City of Chariton, with trucks traveling through the city roughly every four minutes. Hy-Vee is Iowa's largest grocery store chain and one of the largest in the Midwest with annual sales of over \$7.6 billion. The distribution center in the City of Chariton serves over 235 stores throughout eight Midwestern states.
- The Lucas County Conservation Board reported that six miles of popular recreational trails from the south side of the City of Chariton, Lucas County, running along the Chariton River to just east of the City of Derby, Lucas County, were closed. The trails received significant damage expected to exceed \$60,000.
- Several Amish small businesses in Davis County became inaccessible due to flood waters. These businesses included lumber and saw mills, general stores, bakeries, candy shops, and cabinetry shops.
- Starr's Cave Nature Center, a Des Moines County Conservation facility located in the City of Burlington, Des Moines County, is closed since it is not accessible because of flood waters from the nearby Flint River.
- Fast moving waters caused the erosion of 70 feet of embankment along a bike trail at Brown Deer Golf Club in the City of Coralville, Johnson County.
- The Iowa Department of Natural Resources reported damages to the Lake McBride Park facilities in Johnson County, including washouts to bike trails, and damage to roads and parking facilities.

- Roquette America, a biorefinery employing over 500 people, located in the City of Keokuk, Lee County, was required to construct a rock flood wall at its facility on Mississippi River Road in order to protect its facility.
- West Liberty Foods, the largest industrial business in the City of West Liberty, Muscatine County, lost sewer service when the West Liberty waste water treatment plant was severely damaged by flood waters. This resulted in a day-long shutdown. West Liberty Foods is a turkey processing plant, employing approximately 800 people.
- Van Buren County Conservation reported partial flooding in the campgrounds located in Bentonsport Park. These sites are closed until flood related debris and contaminated sediments can be removed.

Education.

- The Library in the City of West Liberty, Muscatine County, was damaged by the intense rains on April 18. The library was housed in a temporary facility while its primary facility was being remodeled. Nighttime janitorial staff at the temporary facility noticed that a roof leak on April 18 was about to cause a ceiling collapse and moved parts of the library collection to avoid damage. Damages also occurred in the permanent location that was being remodeled as plaster walls and ceilings in portions of the facility received water damage from roof leaks.
- Davis County Schools were delayed two hours on April 18, due to road conditions.
- Mid-Prairie Community School District in Johnson, Keokuk, and Washington Counties cancelled classes on April 19, due to flooding in the area.
- West Liberty Schools in Muscatine County cancelled classes April 18, and ran busses on hard surfaces only on Friday, April 19, due to transportation issues related to flooding. Additionally, due to the football/soccer field being flooded, the High School boys' soccer tournament that was scheduled to be held that weekend at the West Liberty field was moved to fields in the neighboring City of Solon, Johnson County.

Residential.

- The City of Tipton, Cedar County, reported over 30 homes sustained damages from floodwaters.
- The City of Welton, Clinton County, reported that there was basement flooding in several structures in the city.
- Approximately 30 residences in Clinton County were inaccessible when road access was severed by flood waters.
- Johnson County Emergency Management reported that approximately 145 homes were affected by flooding, displacing over 270 citizens.
- Storm sewer pipes in the City of Harper, Keokuk County, failed in two places, causing storm water to backup into approximately 40 of the 61 residential properties in the city. These pipes have yet to be repaired.

- The City of West Liberty, Muscatine County, estimates that between 60-75% of residential homes in the city of about 350 homes sustained flood related damages.
- A property owner in Warren County reported that a landslide on a portion of his property occurred.

Utilities and Telecommunication.

- The Cedar County cities of Bennett, Lowden, and Mechanicsville sustained significant increased flow in their sewer systems. Extra pumps, including fire truck pumps, were used to prevent the system from overflowing.
- Water levels at the City of Lowden, Cedar County, water treatment plant reached 4 to 5 feet above its alarm stage.
- Windstream and Centurylink telecommunications companies suffered numerous communication line breaks in Cedar County. This resulted in the Cedar County 911 answering center to utilize secondary systems for seven days and caused numerous telephone and long-distance outages throughout Cedar County.
- The Davis County waste water treatment plant had to temporarily shut down to prevent damage from overtopping by flood waters.
- The Rathbun Regional Water Association in Davis County had pipes exposed by to flood waters, with one exposed pipe breaking.
- Emergency protective measures at the waste water treatment plant in the City of Solon, Johnson County, prevented plant equipment from being severely damaged. However, the road leading to the plant and the area surrounding the plant sustained significant damage.
- The waste water treatment plant just south of the City of Lucas, Lucas County, was surrounded with flood waters, causing significant damage to the sewer lines and other infrastructure that supports the plant.
- The Marion County Rural Water District, Marion County, reported three water main breaks. These breaks resulted in a boil alert for 48 hours while repairs were made.
- The waste water treatment plant in the City of Coralville, Johnson County, was overwhelmed by flood waters. Additional pumping for a day and a half removed the flood waters from the facility.
- Three waste water treatment plants in the City of Iowa City, Johnson County, were flooded during the event.
- The Fort Madison, Lee County, wastewater treatment plant was sandbagged in preparation for rising floodwaters.
- Rising waters threatened an Alliant Energy substation in the City of Fort Madison, Lee County. This substation supplies electricity for approximately half of the City of Fort Madison. Emergency protective measures were taken by Alliant Energy to prevent the loss of the substation.
- The South Central Iowa Waste Agency, Marion County, suffered a lightning strike on April 17. This severely damaged the scale, computers, and telephone systems, and caused landfill operations to be disrupted until repairs were made.

- The waste water treatment plant in City of West Liberty, Muscatine County, sustained over \$200,000 in damages, including the destruction of the flood gate controls.
- The City of Mount Ayr, Ringgold County, had a main sewer pipe burst and push out of the ground from the greater than normal water pressure.
- The Iowa American Water Company along the Mississippi River in Scott County was threatened by rising flood waters. Subsequent emergency protective measures mitigated this threat.
- A lift station in the City of Farmington, Van Buren County, was threatened by floodwaters, which caused a second lift station to operate the entire city's wastewater system.
- Wapello County Rural Water reported multiple water line breaks on April 18, due to flood effects on water mains, resulting in water outages. One of these breaks occurred when an extremely large culvert in Wapello County was washed out. A boil advisory was issued for the area until Iowa Department of Natural Resources testing could ensure that the water was safe to drink.

ROLE OF PRIOR HAZARD MITIGATION EFFORTS.

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 State Mitigation Plan through September 18, 2013.

Since 2007, the State of Iowa has been proactive in mitigating the affects flooding poses to private property in the affected area. The most significant mitigation effort includes the acquisition of flood-prone properties which were converted into permanent open space in the floodplain, preventing an estimated 116 properties in the affected area from being damaged as a result of flooding. It is estimated that this resulted in \$3.9 million in avoided damages in this most recent event.

Other past mitigation projects in Clarke County operated effectively in preventing damages to secondary roads. Corrugated metal culverts, which are more likely to be overloaded and collapse under significant flows, were replaced with more robust concrete box culverts that are designed to manage increased storm water flow. A Public Assistance funded mitigation project included cable-connected concrete blocks, which prevented further damage to roads in parts of Davis County.

OTHER DISASTERS.

Currently, the State of Iowa has eleven open Presidentially-declared disasters for Public Assistance. All 19 of the counties for which I am requesting a declaration are included in at least one of these Presidentially-declared disasters. The latest round of damage only serves to cause additional stress to these counties.

In the year prior to this event, I issued three State of Iowa Disaster Emergency proclamations. The first proclamation was due to severe storms and tornados on April 14, 2012 in Fremont and Union Counties. In this event, a tornado hit the Greater Regional Medical Center, the Southwestern Community College, and destroyed several homes in the City of Creston in Union County. This tornado caused 10 injuries in Creston. The State of Iowa provided debris removal assistance, and activated the State Individual Assistance program to assist citizens affected as a result of the event.

The second proclamation was issued July 26, 2012, for severe drought conditions throughout Iowa. This proclamation was to temporarily remove Iowa Department of Transportation restrictions on hauling of hay, straw, and stover for livestock.

The third and most recent proclamation prior to this event was issued April 9, 2013 for severe weather causing damaging winds, heavy rains, thunderstorms, freezing rain, along with ice and snow that caused significant damage to utilities and vegetation in 10 counties in northwest Iowa. This proclamation resulted in the most recent Presidential Disaster Declaration in the State of Iowa for the most affected counties: Dickinson, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, and Sioux.

On May 1, 2013, substantial snow storms occurred in Iowa, causing significant damages in four counties within areas affected by the severe storms and flooding in the event beginning April 17, 2013. Preliminary Damage Assessments of the damages caused by the snow storms have been requested and are expected to commence soon.

STATE AND LOCAL RESOURCES PROVIDED.

The following describes the nature and amount of State and local resources that have been or will be used to alleviate conditions of this disaster as outlined in section nine of the Request for Presidential Disaster (FEMA Form 010-0-13).

Local Resources.

- Engineering and Secondary Roads Departments throughout the affected area erected road barricades and performed emergency repairs as possible to affected roads.
- Local Law Enforcement throughout the affected areas assisted in road closures, evacuation assistance, and emergency assistance calls.
- Fire Departments in the Cedar County Cities of Bennett, Lowden, and Mechanicsville utilized on board pumps to assist in preventing sewer backups in their communities.
- Sandbagging took place at the Mississippi Riverfront in the City of Burlington, Des Moines County.
- The Johnson County Secondary Roads Department sent two dump truck loads of sand to the City of Solon.
- Johnson County Secondary Roads Department loaned a skid-steer sandbagger attachment to Scott County.

- Johnson County sent additional sand, sandbags, a sandbag thrower, and two three-inch pumps to the Solon Public Works facility in the City of Solon, Johnson County.
- On April 17, the City of Coralville Fire Department, Johnson County, dispatched four firefighters and an all-terrain vehicle to the City of Solon, Johnson County, to assist in flood fighting efforts.
- The City of Coralville, Johnson County, sent a pallet of empty sandbags to the City of Solon.
- The City of North Liberty, Johnson County, sent two dump truck loads of sand to the City of Solon.
- The City of Solon, Johnson County, put an eight-inch pump in place at the Wastewater Treatment Plant in an effort to slow rising waters on April 17.
- The City of Owen loaned a pump to the City of Wyoming, both in Jones County.
- The City of Keokuk, Lee County, installed panels in its flood wall. Additionally, the City requested an additional 100,000 sand bags and 12 rolls of plastic in preparation for what was predicted to be one of the highest crests of the Mississippi River on record.
- Sandbagging of critical areas of the Green Bay Levee & Drainage District, Lee County, was started on April 18.
- The waste water treatment plant in the City of Chariton, Lucas County, was sandbagged in response to rising floodwaters.

Non-Governmental Organization Resources.

- American Red Cross.
 - Opened a shelter in Scott County on April 18, with 11 people using the shelter until April 21.
 - Provided financial assistance to 10 families in the affected area.
 - Sent 10 cases of drinking water to Wapello County.
 - Provided 40 cleanup kits to homeowners in Keokuk and Washington Counties.
 - Delivered two pallets of water to the Valley Village Mobile Home Community in the City of Ottumwa, Wapello County.
- Latter-Day Saints Charities supplied emergency cleanup kits to residents in Mahaska County.
- The Salvation Army sent a canteen to the City of Solon, Johnson County, to provide those filling sandbags with food and water.
- Alliant Energy erected HESCO barriers around their substation in an area known as “Willow Patch” in Lee County. This substation provides electrical service for approximately half of the City of Fort Madison, Lee County.

State Resources.

- A six-inch pump and 600 feet of HESCO barriers were provided by Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management for the protection of the Iowa American Water Company along the Mississippi River in Scott County. This facility provides drinking water to the area.
- An eight-inch pump was provided by Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management to the City of Solon, Johnson County, on April 17, and was later sent to the City of Tiffin, also in Johnson County.
- The Iowa Department of Human Services dispatched a crisis team to the City of West Liberty in Muscatine County.
- The Iowa Department of Transportation moved pallets of sandbags from the Iowa Medical Classification Center, a medium security correctional facility in the City of Coralville, Johnson County; to the Public Works facility in the City of North Liberty, Johnson County.

Federal Resources Already Committed.

- On April 17, the United States Army Corps of Engineers manually activated station pumps at the Amana Lift Station in the City of Coralville, Johnson County.

ASSISTANCE REQUESTED AND CERTIFICATIONS GIVEN.

Preliminary estimates of the types and amount of assistance needed under the Stafford Act are tabulated in the enclosures, particularly, Enclosure B1. The Governor's Certification is included in Enclosure B2.

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. The total non-Federal expenditures for the period starting April 17, 2013, and ending April 30, 2013, are expected to exceed \$8.9 million.

I request direct Federal assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property to include debris removal, emergency protective measures, long-term housing/ sheltering. Because of the continuing nature of the flooding, it is still too early to determine the exact needs. Further, I request Hazard Mitigation "Statewide".

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

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.

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 hereby designate Patrick J. Hall as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry E. Branstad", written over a horizontal line.

Terry E. Branstad
Governor of Iowa

Enclosures

OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13
B: Public Assistance