



TERRY E. BRANSTAD
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KIM REYNOLDS
LT. GOVERNOR

April 26, 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, freezing rain, along with ice and snow beginning on April 9, 2013 and ending on April 11, 2013 and caused significant damages to utility lines, poles and vegetation.

GENERAL FACTS OF THIS DISASTER.

On Tuesday, April 9, 2013, severe weather moved into northwest Iowa, with thunderstorms, high winds, and rain in the early morning and into the early afternoon. As temperatures cooled over the course of the day, the rain became freezing rain, coating tree limbs and power lines with more than two inches of ice. During the evening of April 9, an additional six inches of snow fell in parts of the affected area, increasing the load on trees and utility lines. According to the National Weather Service, this alternating mix of rain and snow continued late into the evening of April 11, before the system finally moved out of Iowa. As a result of this combination of precipitation and freezing temperatures, trees, utility poles and utility lines were overloaded with ice, causing them to break and resulting in extended and widespread power outages and road closures.

I have specifically found this disaster to be of such severity and magnitude that an effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State of Iowa and the local governments affected by this disaster. Accordingly, Federal assistance is necessary. In response to this event and pursuant to Iowa Code § 29C.6, I have issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency and specifically directed the execution of the Iowa Emergency Response Plan, effective April 9,

2013, and in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act. I have likewise taken all other appropriate action under State law in response to this disaster.

A State of Iowa Proclamation of Disaster Emergency effective April 9, 2013 was issued for Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Kossuth, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Plymouth, and Sioux Counties. Although in my original Proclamation I declared ten counties as part of the disaster emergency, I have since determined that the severity of the damage in Dickinson, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, and Sioux Counties is so great that it warrants Federal Assistance.

On April 12, 2013, the State of Iowa requested a joint Federal, State, and local Preliminary Damage Assessment for Dickinson, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, and Sioux Counties. These assessments commenced on April 16, 2013, and were concluded on April 19, 2013.

ADDITIONAL DAMAGES.

The following is a continuation of the additional damages and impacts to the affected area and population described in section 8 of the Request for Presidential Disaster (FEMA Form 010-0-13)

Fatalities, Injuries, and Evacuations.

- Two people were transported to the hospital with injuries sustained in weather-related traffic accidents on April 9. One of these was in Lyon County, and the other in Sioux County.
- Emergency shelters were opened in Lyon County, specifically in the towns of Larchwood, Lester, Little Rock, and George. As temperatures remained below freezing, these shelters were utilized as warming stations by roughly 50 people per day over the course of three days. These shelters were closed on April 13, when electrical services were finally restored.
- Emergency shelters were also made available in Ocheyedan, Sibley, and Ashton in Osceola County for similar purposes as those in Lyon County. However, these shelters were not utilized. As of April 11, electrical services had been restored, and these shelters were closed.

Critical Facilities and Infrastructure.

- Emergency services were severely delayed throughout the affected area due to power outages, and debris blocking roads.
- Emergency medical transport was unable to utilize Iowa Highway 9 from Dickinson County through Osceola and Lyon Counties to South Dakota for approximately 72 hours. This highway is a main emergency transportation route from County hospitals in the affected area to the nearest major hospitals in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The alternate route utilized added approximately 100 miles round trip for the transport of patients from Lakes Regional Hospital in Spirit Lake, Dickinson County, Iowa to more intensive medical care at major medical facilities in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

- The emergency communications tower for the Osceola County Sheriff's Office was damaged due to falling ice. This affected incoming emergency calls to the Sheriff's Office. The tower remained inoperable as of April 18, 2013.
- Emergency personnel in the City of Sibley (Osceola County) were unable to use fire trucks and ambulances to respond to calls for service due to the large amounts of debris in roadways. As an alternative, personal 4x4 trucks were used to respond to calls for service.
- Potable water service was disrupted in the affected area due to the loss of power. Although emergency generators were used, many ran out of fuel because of the extended power outage, and inability of fuel to be refilled due to impassable roads.
- Lyon & Sioux Rural Water had four well pumps fail following restoration of power. It is suspected that the loss of power damaged these pumps, affecting water service to 1,600 customers.
- The fire station and sewage lift stations in the City of Boyden (Sioux County), lost power as a result of the storm, impacting fire and rescue response availability, and temporarily closing sanitary sewage treatment facilities.
- Additionally, a nursing home in the City of Boyden (Sioux County) had its critical medical care to nursing home patients disrupted as a result of power outages.

Education.

- Sixteen school districts were affected by this storm. The majority of those affected dismissed early on April 9 and either canceled classes and activities on April 10 and 11, or started later than normally scheduled. Some school districts also canceled classes and activities on Friday, April 12, as power had yet to be restored.
- Central Lyon CSD (Lyon County) reported a large number of trees down on its campuses, resulting in custodial staff renting equipment, and using overtime to clear debris.
- The West Lyon CSD (Lyon County) Senior Prom banquet was moved to Central Lyon CSD in Rock Rapids (approximately 16 miles away), as power was still out at the West Lyon CSD facility. The dance portion of the event was held at West Lyon's facilities after power was restored.
- Sioux Center CSD (Sioux County) reported that a school bus slid off an ice covered road on April 10, no injuries were reported.

Agriculture.

- Northwest Iowa is home to many livestock operations, including dairy and beef farms and hog facilities.
- Due to the effects of the storm, transportation of feed to livestock facilities were severely impacted, as well as, farm to market transportation of livestock.
- Additionally, as electricity was out for much of the impacted area, pumps that provide water to livestock were disrupted.

Commercial.

- Until power was restored and debris cleared, many businesses in Osceola and Sioux Counties closed, some remained closed more than 48 hours after the storm. This left many employees with no choice but to take either paid vacation time off, or unpaid time off, leaving many households with extra financial stress.
- Exopack, LLC, the largest employer in the City of Sibley (Osceola County), and a manufacturer of bags, food packaging, and other packaging was forced to close while electricity was unavailable. Exopack employs approximately 175 people, and a total of seven shifts were affected due to the storm. Additionally, equipment was damaged due to electricity being on and off repeatedly.

Telecommunications. As a result of the high winds and ice loading on lines and towers, telephone and cellular services were interrupted throughout the affected counties.

Utilities.

- Over 12,000 electrical customers were without power in the affected counties immediately after the storm. Electrical service has since been restored in the affected area, but repairs are ongoing.
 - At its peak, Mid-American Energy reported more than 6,000 Iowa customers without power. In consequence, Mid-American Energy called in more than 200 employees and contractors from Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas to assist in restoring power in the affected area.
 - Alliant Energy estimated that 3,500 of its Iowa customers were initially without power in the affected area as a result of the storm. Crews found more than 225 utility poles broken or pulled down as a result of the storm.
 - Rural Electric Cooperatives in the affected area reported a peak of 2,139 customers without power as a result of the storm. As of April 11, over 1,000 Rural Electrical Cooperative customers remained without power. By April 15, 350 Rural Electric Cooperative customers had yet to have power restored.
 - Rock Rapids Municipal Utilities (Lyon County) reported that the main electrical transmission line was downed due to the storm, causing their entire service area to be without power for about an hour while electrical transmission service was switched to lines retrofitted as part of a Hazard Mitigation project.
 - The City of Larchwood (Lyon County) was without power for about 72 hours.
 - The City of Lester (Lyon County) was without power for about 72 hours.
 - The City of Harris (Osceola County) reported being without power for at least 24 hours.
- Ice loading on power lines, and subsequent snow, caused utility lines and poles to be overloaded, and break, resulting in downed power lines, and loss of power.
 - L&O Power Cooperative (Lyon & Osceola Counties) and Rock Rapids Municipal Utilities (Lyon County) reported between 1.5-2.5 inches of ice buildup on its lines that were directly in the storm's path.

- Osceola County REC (Osceola County) reported three inches of ice on its lines, and over 150 poles broken due to ice loading.
- Iowa Lakes REC (Dickinson County) reported ice loading of two inches on its lines.

Other damages. All parks and cemeteries in the affected area sustained heavy vegetative damage. Some parks in the affected area lost all of the trees.

ROLE OF PRIOR HAZARD MITIGATION EFFORTS.

Hazard Mitigation measures over the last several years were a major factor in the prevention of additional outages. Since 2008, 98 miles of rural electric power lines in the affected area have been retrofitted to Grade B lines, designed specifically to withstand heavy ice buildup and high winds.

Rural Electric Cooperatives that had retrofitted lines to Grade B standards using Hazard Mitigation funds reported that the retrofitted lines sustained little to no damage as a result of the storm. One engineer for Rock Rapids Municipal Utilities and L&O Power Cooperative stated that when asked about the effects of the prior mitigation efforts: "I shudder to think what outage timeframes could have been if these two projects (Rock Rapids Municipal Utilities and L&O Power Cooperative) had not been completed".

Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management estimates that those hazard mitigation efforts resulting in some \$20.5 million in avoided damages in this disaster alone.

OTHER DISASTERS.

Currently, the State of Iowa has ten open Presidentially-declared disasters for Public Assistance. All five 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 past year, I have issued two 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 (Union County). This tornado caused ten injuries in Creston. The State of Iowa provided debris removal assistance, and activated the State Individual Assistance program to assist citizens affected in the area.

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

Currently, eight counties in eastern Iowa are presently under a State-declared Disaster Emergency from severe storms beginning April 17, 2013 that have caused extensive flooding.

The State has provided sandbags and HESCO barriers in the flood-affected area, and the State Individual Assistance program has been activated to assist citizens in the affect area.

STATE 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 9 of the Request for Presidential Disaster (FEMA Form 010-0-13).

- Local Municipal and County resources were deployed for the clearing of debris from roads, parks, and other public areas.
- Utility crews were deployed to restore electrical power in the affected areas.
- The duty officer for Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management was activated to coordinate State response, and the State Emergency Operations Center was partially activated.
- The Iowa Department of Transportation furnished one tree chipper and associated crew to the City of Sibley (Osceola County) to assist with debris cleanup. The City of Ocheyedan (Osceola County) has requested a DOT tree chipper and crew to assist with debris cleanup. The City of George in Lyon County has likewise a DOT tree chipper and crew.
- The Iowa State Patrol responded to 17 motorist assistance calls, and three accidents in the affected area between April 9 and April 11.
- Neighbors Across the Land, a private non-profit organization, provided chain saw teams into O'Brien County to assist with debris cleanup.

ASSISSTANCE REQUESTED AND CERTIFCATIONS 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 of April 9, 2013 through April 11, 2013, are expected to exceed \$1,551,673.

I request direct Federal assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property to include debris removal, long-term housing/ sheltering, security, firefighting, continuity of government, command and control and communications. Because of the devastation in the area, it is still too early to determine the exact needs.

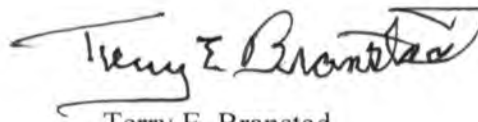
In accordance with 44 CFR§ 206.208, the State of Iowa agrees that with respect to direct Federal assistance, it will do the following:

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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Terry E. Branstad
Governor of Iowa

Enclosures

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

ENCLOSURE B1 TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Requirements for Public Assistance
Under the Stafford Act

CATEGORY

County (6)	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Dickinson	\$58,805.00	\$11,335.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$105,978.00	\$0	\$176,118.00
Lyon	\$574,164.00	\$28,118.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,022,690.00	\$0	\$3,624,972.00
O'Brien	\$364,452.00	\$13,739.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$86,948.00	\$0	\$465,139.00
Osceola	\$352,796.00	\$456,281.00	\$0	\$0	\$5,300.00	\$534,827.00	\$0	\$1,349,204.00
Sioux	\$474,096.00	\$31,068.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$86,093.00	\$0	\$591,257.00
TOTALS	\$1,824,313.00	\$540,541.00	\$0	\$0	\$5,300.00	\$3,668,426.00	\$0	\$6,038,580.00

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

ENCLOSURE B2 TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Governor's Certification

I certify that for this current disaster, State and local government expenditures and obligations will include the nonFederal 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	\$182,431	\$273,647
Category B – Emergency Protective Measures	\$54,054	\$81,081
Category C – Roads and Bridges	\$0	\$0
Category D – Water Control Facilities	\$0	\$0
Category E – Buildings and Equipment	\$530	\$795
Category F – Utilities	\$383,654	\$575,480
Category G – Other (Parks, Recreational Facilities, etc.)	\$0	\$0
Total:	\$620,669	\$931,004
Grand Total:	\$620,669	\$931,004