

Governor Culver Requests Additional Damage Assessments State and Local Officials Continue to Work Together on Debris Removal Plan

DES MOINES – Governor Chet Culver has requested additional joint preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) as a result of the severe weather that has occurred in the state beginning June 1, 2010.

Flooding, flash flooding, tornadoes and high winds have plagued Iowa and several other states for the past few months. Governor Culver requested a Presidential Disaster Declaration for 35 counties earlier this summer, but since then additional storms have created more damage and the need for further assessments.

Data from the joint PDAs may allow Culver to request additional counties be given a Presidential Disaster Declaration. Joint PDAs are called “joint” because the teams conducting the PDAs are made up of representatives from federal, state and local government.

The joint PDA teams will review damage for Public Assistance (PA) in 18 counties and Individual Assistance (IA) in 19 counties. Public Assistance program funds are available to public entities and select nonprofit agencies to rebuild damaged infrastructure that may include roads, bridges, culverts, and other public facilities, or to cover costs of emergency work during and debris removal after the storms. Individual Assistance program funds are available for home owners and small businesses including temporary housing and disaster unemployment assistance, and replacement or repair costs for eligible applicants. Damage assessments are scheduled to be completed by Aug. 1.

Delaware County is one county that will have PDAs for both Public Assistance and Individual Assistance. After heavy rain fell Friday evening and Saturday morning, the lake overtopped the earthen dam and washed out a portion of the road and dam, unleashing a torrent of water on residents downstream on the Maquoketa River. Because of quick action by local and state officials, local warning sirens were sounded and residents were able to evacuate where necessary. No injuries or fatalities have been reported as a result of the breached dam, however, a large amount of debris were left behind after the water level dropped.

Debris removal after a major storm is often a difficult task to undertake. State and local officials will continue to work together to develop and implement a plan that provides for effective debris-removal and management, as a result of the failure of the Lake Delhi dam on Saturday, July 24.

“It’s been great to see the outpouring of assistance offered to Iowans impacted by flooding this past week, especially for those who live on Lake Delhi,” Culver said. “Today we’re launching a partnership that will bring state, county and private resources to bear on the urgent need for debris cleanup and removal.”

“We try to help every community rebound as quickly as possible after a disaster,” said David Miller, administrator for the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division. “Removing debris is one of the more pressing concerns we have at the moment.”

Housing rental help may be available to flood victims

Iowans who have been displaced from their homes because of recent floods may receive temporary help acquiring affordable housing through the Iowa Rental Help program, administered by the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA). Qualified homeowners who are moving into rental units and homeless individuals and families who seek rental housing can access the funds for affordable housing search and placement, moving expenses, rental deposit, rent and utility payments and more. A complete list of eligible expenses and income limits and other qualifications are available at www.IowaRentalHelp.com, or by calling **1-877-386-9104**.

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