

Navajo Nation – Severe Freeze

FEMA-4104-DR

Declared March 5, 2013

On February 19, 2013, President Ben Shelly requested a major disaster declaration due to a severe freeze during the period of December 15, 2012 to January 21, 2013. President Shelly requested a declaration for emergency protective measures and utilities (Categories B and F) under the Public Assistance program and Hazard Mitigation for the Navajo Nation. During the period of February 6-8, 2013, joint Federal and Tribal Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) were conducted in the requested areas and are summarized below. 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 Tribe, and that Federal assistance is necessary.¹

On March 5, 2013, President Obama declared that a major disaster exists in the lands associated with the Navajo Nation. This declaration made emergency protective measures and utilities (Categories B and F) under the Public Assistance program requested by President Shelly available to the Navajo Nation on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the severe freeze. This declaration also made Hazard Mitigation Grant Program assistance requested by President Shelly available for hazard mitigation measures for the Navajo Nation.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 utilities
- Total Public Assistance cost estimate: \$5,223,234
- Per capita impact:⁷ \$30.08

- Per capita impact indicator:⁸ \$1.37

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 population in the 2010 Census.

⁸ Statewide Per Capita Impact Indicator for FY13, *Federal Register*, October 1, 2012.