Preliminary Damage Assessment Report

North Carolina – Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides

Denial of Appeal

Denied on November 9, 2018

On July 30, 2018, Governor Roy Cooper requested a major disaster declaration due to severe storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides during the period of May 15-31, 2018. The Governor requested Individual Assistance for 10 counties, Public Assistance for 13 counties, and Hazard Mitigation statewide. On August 20, 2018, the Governor’s request was denied. On September 19, 2018, Governor Cooper appealed the denial. During the period of June 5-14, 2018, joint federal, state, and local government Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) were conducted in the requested counties 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 state and the affected local governments, and that Federal assistance is necessary.1

On November 9, 2018, the Governor’s appeal for a major disaster declaration was denied based on the determination that the damage identified in the request resulted from separate and distinct events, none of which were of such severity and magnitude as to be beyond the combined capabilities of the state and affected local governments.2

Summary of Damage Assessment Information Used in Determining Whether to Declare a Major Disaster

Individual Assistance – Assessments were not requested.

- Total Number of Residences Impacted:3 N/A
  - Destroyed - Not conducted
  - Major Damage - Not conducted
  - Minor Damage - Not conducted
  - Affected - Not conducted

- Percentage of insured residences:4 Not conducted
- Percentage of low income households:5 Not conducted
- Percentage of ownership households:6 Not conducted
- Total Individual Assistance cost estimate: N/A

Public Assistance

- Primary Impact: Damage to roads and bridges
- Total Public Assistance cost estimate: $17,831,349
- Statewide per capita impact: $1.87
- Statewide per capita impact indicator: $1.50
- Countywide per capita impact: Avery County ($38.77), Buncombe County ($6.97), Caldwell County ($9.42), Henderson County ($17.28), Jackson County ($12.69), Madison County ($28.05), McDowell County ($50.61), Mitchell County ($4.01), Polk County ($311.10), Rutherford County ($21.24), Swain County ($28.71), Watauga County ($16.45), and Yancey County ($20.53).
- Countywide per capita impact indicator: $3.78

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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. 42 U.S.C. § 5155 and 44 C.F.R. § 206.48(b)(5).
5 Special populations, such as low-income, the elderly, or the unemployed may indicate a greater need for assistance. 44 C.F.R. § 206.48(b)(3).
6 Ibid. 44 C.F.R. § 206.48(b)(3).
7 Based on State population in the 2010 Census.
8 Statewide Per Capita Impact Indicator for FY19, Federal Register, October 1, 2018.
9 Countywide Per Capita Impact Indicator for FY19, Federal Register, October 1, 2018.