

# Virginia – Severe Winter Storms and Snowstorms FEMA-1905-DR

## *Declared April 27, 2010*

On March 12, 2010, Governor Robert F. McDonnell requested a major disaster declaration due to severe winter storms and snowstorms during the period of February 5-11, 2010. The Governor requested a declaration for Public Assistance for 71 counties and 12 independent cities; Public Assistance, including snow assistance for 19 counties and seven independent cities; and Hazard Mitigation for all jurisdictions. During the period of March 8 to April 2, 2010, joint Federal, Commonwealth, and local 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.<sup>1</sup>

On April 27, 2010, President Obama declared that a major disaster exists in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This declaration made Public Assistance requested by the Governor available to Commonwealth and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the severe winter storms and snowstorms in the counties of Albemarle, Appomattox, Arlington, Augusta, Buckingham, Caroline, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Essex, Fairfax, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Frederick, Greene, Highland, King George, Loudoun, Louisa, Madison, Nelson, Orange, Prince William, Rappahannock, Shenandoah, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Tazewell, and Warren, and the independent cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, Manassas Park, Waynesboro, and Winchester. This declaration also made emergency protective measures, including snow assistance, under the Public Assistance program as requested by the Governor available to State and eligible local governments in the counties of Arlington, Augusta, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Highland, Loudoun, Prince William, Shenandoah, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Warren, and the independent cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, Manassas Park, Waynesboro, and Winchester. Finally, this declaration made Hazard Mitigation Grant Program assistance requested by the Governor available for hazard mitigation measures statewide.<sup>2</sup>

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

### **Individual Assistance - (*Not requested*)**

- Total Number of Residences Impacted:<sup>3</sup> -
  - Destroyed - -
  - Major Damage - -
  - Minor Damage - -
  - Affected - -

- Percentage of insured residences:<sup>4</sup> -
- Percentage of low income households:<sup>5</sup> -
- Percentage of elderly households:<sup>6</sup> -
- Total Individual Assistance cost estimate: N/A

## Public Assistance

- Primary Impact: Costs associated with emergency protective measures
- Total Public Assistance cost estimate: \$52,571,170
- Statewide per capita impact:<sup>7</sup> \$7.43
- Statewide per capita impact indicator:<sup>8</sup> \$1.29
- Countywide per capita impact: Accomack County (\$0.00), Albemarle County (\$25.94), Alleghany County (\$0.00), Amelia County (\$0.00), Amherst County (\$0.00), Appomattox County (\$6.30), Arlington County (\$14.14), Augusta County (\$5.25), Bath County (\$0.00), Bedford County (\$0.00), Bland County (\$0.00), Botetourt County (\$0.00), Brunswick County (\$0.00), Buckingham County (\$12.43), Campbell County (\$0.00), Caroline County (\$14.07), Carroll County (\$0.00), Charles City County (\$0.00), Charlotte County (\$0.00), Clarke County (\$67.74), Craig County (\$12.14), Culpeper County (\$17.78), Cumberland County (\$0.00), Dinwiddie County (\$0.00), Essex County (\$4.04), Fairfax County (\$17.71), Fauquier County (\$28.61), Floyd County (\$0.00), Fluvanna County (\$45.51), Frederick County (\$4.00), Giles County (\$0.00), Goochland County (\$0.00), Grayson County (\$0.00), Greene County (\$11.56), Highland County (\$231.06), King and Queen County (\$0.00), King George County (\$13.25), King William County (\$0.00), Lancaster County (\$0.00), Loudoun County (\$62.86), Louisa County (\$39.97), Lunenburg County (\$0.00), Madison County (\$23.30), Mecklenburg County (\$0.00), Middlesex County (\$0.00), Nelson County (\$5.14), New Kent County (\$0.00), Northampton County (\$0.00), Northumberland County (\$0.03), Nottoway County (\$0.00), Orange County (\$15.76), Page County (\$0.00), Patrick County (\$0.00), Pittsylvania County (\$0.00), Prince Edward County (\$0.00), Prince William County (\$5.31), Pulaski County (\$0.00), Rappahannock County (\$27.76), Richmond County (\$1.30), Rockbridge County (\$0.00), Russell County (\$0.00), Shenandoah County (\$21.63), Smyth County (\$0.00), Spotsylvania County (\$24.77), Stafford County (\$18.64), Surry County (\$0.00), Tazewell County (\$4.02), Warren County (\$31.57), Washington County (\$0.00), Westmoreland County (\$1.62), and Wythe County (\$0.00), and Alexandria City (\$15.83), Buena Vista City (\$0.00), Colonial Heights City (\$0.00), Fairfax City (\$24.11), Falls Church City (\$16.56), Fredericksburg City (\$43.93), Manassas City (\$15.12), Manassas Park City (\$11.91), Martinsville City (\$0.00), Richmond City (\$0.00), Waynesboro City (\$7.14), and Winchester City (\$10.12).
- Countywide per capita impact indicator:<sup>9</sup> \$3.23

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<sup>1</sup> 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

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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).

<sup>2</sup> 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).

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> By law, Federal disaster assistance cannot duplicate insurance coverage (44 CFR § 206.48(b)(5)).

<sup>5</sup> Special populations, such as low-income, the elderly, or the unemployed may indicate a greater need for assistance (44 CFR § 206.48(b)(3)).

<sup>6</sup> Ibid (44 CFR § 206.48(b)(3)).

<sup>7</sup> Based on State population in the 2000 Census.

<sup>8</sup> Statewide Per Capita Impact Indicator for FY10, *Federal Register*, October 1, 2009.

<sup>9</sup> Countywide Per Capita Impact Indicator for FY10, *Federal Register*, October 1, 2009.