



MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mississippi receives Public Assistance Declaration

PEARL –Mississippi received a federal disaster declaration today at the request of Governor Haley Barbour as a result of the ongoing severe weather, tornadoes and flooding that began Wednesday, March 25, 2009 and continued the following week.

FEMA granted Governor Haley Barbour’s request for the federal Public Assistance Program for 10 counties severely affected by the series of strong storms and flooding. Damages from the severe weather outbreak were reported to the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency in 30 counties and estimated to cost more than \$4.3 million.

The counties eligible for the PA program include Amite, Greene, Jackson, Lawrence, Lincoln, Simpson, Stone, Walthall, Wayne and Wilkinson. Additionally the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program is available statewide.

Through the PA program, FEMA provides supplemental federal disaster grant assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the repair, replacement or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned facilities and facilities of certain private non-profit organizations. The federal share is not less than 75 percent of the eligible cost for emergency measures and permanent restoration of public buildings and infrastructure.

The U.S. Small Business Administration already issued a disaster declaration for Simpson and contiguous counties of Copiah, Covington, Hinds, Jefferson Davis, Lawrence, Rankin and Smith as a result of the severe weather. Additional damage was identified in Jackson County, which subsequently received an SBA Disaster declaration. The SBA declarations made low interest loans available to private citizens, businesses and non-profit organizations.

For more information, please visit www.msema.org or contact MEMA External Affairs at 866-920-6362.

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