



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

### **Governor Bill Richardson Says State is Prepared to Assist Communities Damaged by Severe Weather**

### **Governor orders National Guard to standby in case situation worsens**

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SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson is monitoring the situation and has ordered state agencies to standby in case state assistance is required for communities damaged or threatened by the recent severe weather across New Mexico. A spring storm continues to dump record amounts of rain and snow across the area. The heavy precipitation, coming on top of spring runoff, has resulted in rising water and mudslides that have damaged roads, flooded homes, and caused other damage, particularly in the Carlsbad/Eddy County area. State emergency management officials are in constant contact with local emergency personnel.

“We’re ready to put the full resources of the state into action to help local communities deal with this situation, if asked,” said Governor Richardson. “Local emergency personnel have done an excellent job handling any problems to this point, but I want them to know that help from the Governor’s office is just a phone call away.”

Heavy rains have caused sinkholes and washed out portions of several roads in the Albuquerque metropolitan area, and have poured large amounts of mud onto streets and highways. In the Carlsbad area, more than two dozen residents were evacuated by helicopters from Ft. Bliss because their homes had become isolated due to flooded roads. Emergency management officials there report approximately 150 homes are threatened

by rising water, and several roads have been washed out or damaged, prompting local officials to declare both the City of Carlsbad and Eddy County disaster areas. New Mexico State Police are assisting local officials with traffic control and other emergency needs.

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