



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

Governor's Office Responds to Eddy County Request for Aid, Declares Disaster Area

For Immediate Release
April 5, 2004

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SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today responded immediately to Eddy County's request for assistance in dealing with the effects of this weekend's severe weather, approving the issuance of an Executive Order declaring the county a disaster area.

"I ordered state government to go on standby yesterday to be prepared to offer immediate assistance to the affected areas," said Governor Bill Richardson. "I anticipate once the damage assessments for other counties are compiled, I will issue additional declarations. The important thing is that local communities and counties have the help they need from the state without delay."

The disaster declaration makes local communities eligible for reimbursement, at a 75%-25% state-local match, for expenses such as overtime for public safety personnel, road, water line, and sewer repairs, and other public assistance needs created by the storm. The money comes from a \$750,000 state disaster relief fund.

More than 300 homes in the Carlsbad area, along with roads, bridges, and utilities, have been damaged by floodwaters and high winds from the storm. Preliminary damage estimates in Carlsbad alone total more than \$700,000. Other cities and counties are in the process of assessing damage in their areas, and are expected to request state assistance in the coming days.

Lt. Governor Diane Denish signed the Executive Order.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2004-015
DECLARING A DISASTER DUE TO FLOODING THROUGHOUT NEW MEXICO

WHEREAS, severe weather conditions beginning on April 2, 2004, have resulted in widespread flooding as the result of heavy snowfall and has affected areas throughout New Mexico;

WHEREAS, the widespread flooding has resulted in impassable roads throughout the State and damage to public infrastructure;

WHEREAS, all available local and state resources may be insufficient to prevent damage from these storms and the resulting loss may pose a significant threat to the health and safety of the Citizens of, and visitors to the affected areas, as well as to the economic base of the affected local governments; and

WHEREAS, the resulting situation constitutes an emergency with potentially catastrophic consequences.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DIANE D. DENISH, Acting Governor of the State of New Mexico pursuant to Article V, Section 7 of the New Mexico Constitution, by virtue of the authority vested in the Governor by the Constitution and Laws of the State of New Mexico, do hereby declare a State of Disaster for the severe weather conditions in Eddy County in accordance with Section 6-7-1 through 6-7-3, NMSA 1978 as amended. Disaster Assistance Program funds will be made available and disbursed to eligible applicants under the authority of the Governor's Authorized Representative in accordance with the Disaster Assistance Program Local Government Handbook and the Statutes of the State of New Mexico. All State Agencies are directed to provide such assistance as may be requested by the State Emergency Operations Center under the authority of the Governor's Authorized Representative.

I FURTHER DIRECT the Adjutant General to order into service any elements of the New Mexico National Guard as are or may be needed to provide military support to civil authorities as needed for this emergency. This action is pursuant to and in accordance with Section 20-1-6 and 20-4-3A New Mexico Statutes Annotated, 1978 Compilation, as amended. Such emergency assistance will be provided during the period of need at the discretion of the Governor's Authorized Representative.

I FURTHER DIRECT the Department of Finance and Administration to provide emergency financial resources in the amount of \$750,000 to the Department of Public Safety. The Office of Emergency Management of the Department of Public Safety is directed to coordinate all requests for assistance, responses to such requests, and to request such aid and assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency as may be appropriate.

ATTEST:

**DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 5th DAY OF APRIL, 2004.**

**REBECCA VIGIL-GIRON
SECRETARY OF STATE**

**WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT SEAL
OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO**

**DIANE D. DENISH
LT. GOVERNOR, PURSUANT TO HER
AUTHORITY AS ACTING GOVERNOR
OF NEW MEXICO**

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