



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

Governor Bill Richardson Signs Executive Order Declaring San Miguel and Mora Counties Disaster Areas

For Immediate Release
Shipley
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SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today issued an Executive Order declaring a disaster in San Miguel and Mora Counties due to damage caused by the recent severe weather.

“County officials requested help from the state, and I immediately agreed and issued the Executive Order so there would be no delay in assistance,” said Governor Richardson. “I want local communities across the state to know we are there for them when disaster strikes.”

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.

Both San Miguel and Mora Counties were hit hard by the storm, with damage from heavy snow and wind, which also caused power outages. Reports indicate some residents of San Miguel County have been without power for four days.

Yesterday, Carlsbad and Eddy County received the disaster declaration. 377 homes in the Carlsbad area, along with roads, bridges, and utilities, were damaged by floodwaters and high winds from the storm. Governor Richardson will travel to Eddy County and Carlsbad tomorrow to personally survey the damage.

Other communities around New Mexico continue to assess the damage in their areas, and are expected to request state assistance in the coming days. State officials expect to receive additional requests for assistance, and are ready to promptly respond.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2004-016
DECLARING A DISASTER DUE TO SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS

WHEREAS, severe weather conditions beginning on April 2, 2004, have resulted in snowpack and flooding that have affected areas throughout New Mexico;

WHEREAS, the widespread flooding and snowpack have 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, BILL RICHARDSON, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the State of New Mexico, do hereby declare a State of Disaster for the severe weather conditions in San Miguel and Mora Counties 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 and the Department of Public Safety to utilize the \$750,000 in emergency financial resources designated in Executive Order No. 2004-015 while executing the purposes of this Executive Order. 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 6th DAY OF APRIL 2004**

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

**REBECCA VIGIL-GIRON
SECRETARY OF STATE**

**BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR**

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