



# State of New Mexico

## *Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
Governor

### **Governor's Office Responds to Bernalillo County Request for Aid, Declares Disaster Area**

For Immediate Release  
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Contact: Billy Sparks  
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SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today responded immediately to Bernalillo County's request for assistance in dealing with the effects of this week's severe weather, approving the issuance of an Executive Order declaring the county a disaster area.

"The damage suffered in Albuquerque and Bernalillo County was significant. In a time of crisis regardless of the cause the state and local authorities must maintain a strong partnership to minimize the negative impact on our communities and our people," said Governor Bill Richardson. "The important thing is that local communities and counties have the help they need from the state without delay."

The declaration for Bernalillo County comes as a result of damage sustained throughout the City of Albuquerque and unincorporated Bernalillo County during last weekend's storms. Damage included numerous sinkholes, mudslides and washed out roads. Preliminary estimates for repair and debris removal could exceed one million dollars.

This declaration will make available up to \$750 thousand for storm related covered costs.

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 2004-018**  
DECLARING A DISASTER IN BERNALILLO COUNTY

DUE TO SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS

**WHEREAS, severe weather conditions during the last several days have resulted in flooding that have affected areas throughout New Mexico including Bernalillo County;**

**WHEREAS,** the widespread flooding has resulted in mudslides, sinkholes, impassable washed out roads and damage to public infrastructure throughout Bernalillo County;

**WHEREAS,** all currently 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 Bernalillo 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 an amount up to \$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 9<sup>th</sup> 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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