



## **Governor Bill Richardson Declares Chaves and Socorro Counties Disaster Areas**

For Immediate Release  
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SANTA FE - Governor Richardson today signed an executive order declaring Chaves and Socorro Counties a disaster due to severe weather last week. The Governor directed the Department of Finance and Administration to provide emergency financial resources up to \$750,000 for Roswell and Socorro.

“When catastrophe strikes, we must unite as a family with state and local officials coming together to help our citizens deal with their loss,” said Governor Bill Richardson.

### **EXECUTIVE ORDER 2004-057**

#### **DECLARING A DISASTER IN THE COUNTIES OF CHAVES AND SOCORRO**

**WHEREAS**, severe weather has impacted New Mexico communities and caused hail and flood damage beginning October 4, 2004 and ending on October 6, 2004;

**WHEREAS**, the severe weather caused extensive hail damage and flooding specifically in Chavez and Socorro County;

**WHEREAS**, the Counties of Chaves and Socorro have declared a disaster exists and have requested the assistance of the State;

**WHEREAS**, all available local and state resources may be insufficient to prevent damage from the hail and flooding and such damage will pose a significant threat to the health and safety of the citizens of, and visitors to the area, as well as to the economic base of the affected local governments; and

**WHEREAS**, this situation constitutes disaster 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 exists in the Counties of Chaves and Socorro due to severe weather.

**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 and responses to such requests under the authority of and as determined by the Governor or his Authorized Representative pursuant to and in accordance with Sections 6-7-1 through 6-7-3, NMSA 1978 and to request such aid and assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency as may be appropriate.

**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 Sections 20-1-6 and 20-4-3.A. NMSA 1978. Such emergency assistance will be provided during the period of need at the discretion of the Governor's Authorized Representative.

**I FURTHER DIRECT** all Cabinet Departments and agencies of the State of New Mexico to provide any assistance that may be requested by the Office of Emergency Management of the Department of Public Safety or State Emergency Operations Center under the authority of the Governor's Authorized Representative.

**THIS ORDER** supersedes any other previous orders, proclamations, or directives in conflict. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as the Governor rescinds it.

ATTEST:  
THIS

REBECCA VIGIL-GIRON  
SEAL  
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

THIS 15<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2004

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

BILL RICHARDSON  
GOVERNOR

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