



## **Governor Bill Richardson Declares State of Emergency In Counties Hit By Severe Winter Storm**

**\$750,000 emergency funding available to help communities clear roads  
and maintain public services**

For Immediate Release  
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SANTA FE- New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson today signed an Executive Order declaring a state of emergency in 7 New Mexico counties hit hardest by the recent winter storm. The counties are Bernalillo, Santa Fe, Torrance, San Miguel, Colfax, Quay, and Guadalupe. The Governor's declaration makes local communities eligible for reimbursement, at a 75%-25% state-local match, for expenses such as overtime for public safety personnel, repairs to roads, utilities, and other public assistance needs created by the storm. The money comes from a \$750,000 state disaster relief fund.

"The state is ready to support in every way possible the local communities overwhelmed by the severity of the storm," said Governor Richardson. "We're taking action now to clear roads and deal with the heavy snow, but we also expect more problems as the snow melts, including flooding and roads made impassable because of mud. Every state agency is on alert to do whatever is needed to help."

The Executive Order signed by Governor Richardson also authorizes the use of National Guard personnel and resources if required. Additional counties may be added to the declaration following completion of ongoing damage assessments being performed by the state.

### **EXECUTIVE ORDER 2005-016**

#### **DECLARING AN EMERGENCY IN CERTAIN NORTHERN NEW MEXICO COUNTIES DUE TO SEVERE WEATHER**

**WHEREAS**, heavy snowfall, precipitation, and severe weather have impacted communities throughout northern New Mexico beginning on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005 and is continuing;

**WHEREAS**, roads throughout areas of the northern half of the state are impassable and have lead to long closures stranding travelers and residents and delaying or impeding access by emergency and utility personnel;

**WHEREAS**, emergency measures, including sheltering of stranded persons, have been ongoing throughout the affected area since March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005;

**WHEREAS**, all available local and state resources may be insufficient to alleviate this emergency and prevent damage from the results of this storm and, additionally, subsequent damage to infrastructure 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**, these situations constitute emergency situations 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 Emergency exists in the counties of Bernalillo, Tarrant, Santa Fe, San Miguel, Colfax, Quay and Guadalupe due to the severe winter storm.

**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**

**DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

**15<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2005**

**REBECCA VIGIL-GIRON  
GREAT SECRETARY OF STATE  
MEXICO**

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

**BILL RICHARDSON  
GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO**

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