



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Contact: Carrie Moritomo
(Santa Fe) 505-476-9612

Governor Richardson Requests FEMA Assistance for Flood Devastated Hatch

(Santa Fe, NM) – Governor Richardson today requested a joint preliminary damage assessment from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Hatch, New Mexico after recent flooding severely damaged homes, businesses and infrastructure in the village. This joint assessment will team FEMA evaluators and State Emergency Management officials with local officials to tour the village estimating costs to both public infrastructure and individual homes and businesses.

“I am committed to doing whatever I can to help the Village of Hatch dry out and get back on its feet,” said Governor Richardson. “Bringing FEMA in will help speed the restoration process for the community and citizens.”

FEMA personnel will arrive Friday to begin the assessment process. FEMA may be able to provide temporary housing, repair, replacement, and permanent housing construction to qualified households. Other housing needs are provided for disaster related medical or dental costs, clothing, household items, tools, cleanup items, damaged vehicles, or other necessary expenses or serious needs as determined by FEMA. If the appropriate cost thresholds are met, Governor Richardson will request a presidential disaster declaration.

This action follows other efforts the Richardson Administration has made to aid Hatch which was devastated by recent flooding including his declaration of disaster from last week.

Governor Richardson today directed Tim Manning, Director of the New Mexico Office of Homeland Security, to survey the flood damage in Hatch. Manning toured the flooded community and recommended that the Governor request a joint preliminary damage assessment from FEMA. Manning reported that as much as 1/3 of the town is still under water.

Lt. Governor Diane Denish is scheduled to survey flood damaged area of Hatch tomorrow.

State of New Mexico personnel are also out in force assisting Hatch. Last night Governor Richardson directed National Guard personnel and vehicles be dispatched at daybreak today. These troops are conducting patrols and assisting with evacuee transportation. The Department of Public Safety is providing security patrols at road blockades. The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is also addressing drinking water related issues. NMED Drinking Water Bureau staff are sampling drinking water from The Village of Hatch Water System to ensure there is no contamination to public drinking water supplies as a result of the flooding.

The Department of Transportation has also assisted in evacuation and rescue efforts. This has included work on arroyo repair and reinforcing areas along the arroyo banks that appear to be at risk. Crews are trucking in sand for use in bagging activities and are heavily involved with debris clearance from roads and bridges.

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