



For Immediate Release
July 27, 2008

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SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson early this morning directed the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) and all related state agencies to assist Otero County and the City of Ruidoso to respond to severe flooding. The Ruidoso emergency operations center has been activated and DHSEM officials have been dispatched to coordinate whatever state assistance is needed.

“Our priorities are to ensure that people caught in the flooded areas are safe and to help local communities protect as much property as possible,” said Governor Richardson. “We will also act quickly to help repair roads and restore services wherever necessary. I have also directed the New Mexico National Guard to stand by to provide assistance if needed.”

Heavy rains from the remnants of Hurricane Dolly have caused drainage systems and holding ponds to overflow in the Ruidoso area. Initial reports indicate that possibly more than 60 homes have been damaged by floodwaters.

New Mexico State Police officers are already on scene assisting local officials. The New Mexico Department of Transportation has also dispatched personnel to monitor road conditions and direct emergency repairs as needed.

Tim Manning, Director of the DHSEM dispatched Don Scott, bureau chief for the DHSEM Response and Recovery Division to monitor developments and dispatch state resources if needed.

“The state emergency operations center is closely monitoring the situation in Southern New Mexico and is ready to provide additional assistance and resources,” said Director Manning.

Manning also said that the state will expedite any official emergency declaration should one be formally requested by Otero County or Ruidoso officials.

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