



For Immediate Release  
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## **Governor Bill Richardson Declares Disaster for Taos Pueblo**

SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today signed an executive order declaring Taos Pueblo a disaster following recent heavy snowfall. Taos Pueblo will now be eligible for up to \$750,000 in emergency state funding for snow removal and other actions necessary for public services and to protect the health and safety of residents.

“Taos Pueblo has been hit hard by a number of recent snow storms and this disaster declaration will make emergency services available in order to protect the health, safety and property of residents,” said Governor Richardson.

According to the executive order the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the New Mexico National Guard and other state agencies will be readily available to aid the residents of Taos Pueblo.

Full text of the executive order follows:

### **EXECUTIVE ORDER 2009-001**

#### **DECLARING A DISASTER IN THE PUEBLO OF TAOS DUE TO SIGNIFICANT SNOW FALL**

**WHEREAS**, the Pueblo of Taos has been impacted by a substantial amount of snowfall commencing on or about December 15, 2008 and continuing on January 4 and 5, 2009;

**WHEREAS**, the Pueblo of Taos has issued a Disaster Resolution, stating that they have taken all actions within their power to limit the extent of damage and provide for public health and safety, and are requesting assistance from the state;

**WHEREAS**, the Pueblo of Taos has requested the state to provide them and any other eligible recipients within their jurisdiction whatever disaster assistance funding and technical expertise may be available;

**WHEREAS**, this disaster requires emergency action to protect the peace, health, and safety and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State of New Mexico; and,

**WHEREAS**, this disaster is of such magnitude as to be beyond local control and requires the resources of the State to avoid or minimize economic or physical harm and to take action necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

**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 to exist in the Pueblo of Taos due to the effects of substantial snow fall.

**I DIRECT** the Department of Finance and Administration to make available emergency financial resources in an amount up to \$750,000 to the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in accordance with NMSA 1978, §§ 12-11-23 through 12-11-25. The funds shall be expended for actions taken to avoid and minimize economic or physical harm and to protect the public health, safety and welfare and shall be paid out only in an amount specified by warrants drawn by the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration upon vouchers approved by the Governor or the Governor's designee.

**I FURTHER DIRECT** the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to coordinate all requests for assistance and responses to such requests under the authority of and as determined by the Governor and his Authorized Representative 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 NMSA 1978, §§ 20-1-1 through 20-1-8, NMSA 1978, §§ 20-2-1 through 20-2-8, and NMSA 1978, §§ 20-4-1 through 20-4-14. Such emergency assistance shall 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 required by the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management or by the 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:**

**DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE THIS  
7<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2009.**

**MARY HERRERA  
SECRETARY OF STATE**

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

**BILL RICHARDSON**  
**GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO**