



Local, State, Tribal and Federal Emergency Managers Fully Engaged In North Dakota Flood Response

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Bismarck, N.D. -- A large-scale coordinated response of local, state, tribal and federal agencies is underway in North Dakota. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is coordinating the national response of key federal agencies to support the flood fight and response activities.

At the direction of Gov. John Hoeven, the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services (NDDDES), through the State Emergency Operations Center, is actively engaged with FEMA in all emergency planning, communications, coordination and response in support of towns, tribes and counties affected by flooding.

FEMA is pushing critical resources into North Dakota to assist residents and communities who need help. Commodities available:

- More than 170,000 prepackaged meals
- 30,000 cots,
- 38,000 blankets
- 50,000 hygiene kits
- 250,000 liters of water
- 50 generators of various capacities and five industrial generators to power critical facilities
- FEMA's Mobile Emergency Resource Support (MERS) unit offers a premier communications capability for information processing, logistics and operational support

Other federal agencies are providing key support in the flood fight and to help people and communities.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) declared a public health emergency for North Dakota. HHS has deployed Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMAT). These teams will provide medical aid to individuals affected by the disaster. Medical aid includes:

- Two federal medical stations with 250 beds each
- The first of five DMAT teams begin arriving Friday evening

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has supplied North Dakota:

- More than 14 million sandbags, 160 pumps, and 2,500 poly rolls
- More than 32,000 linear ft of portable levees and 2,500 linear ft of portable dam
- Three power assessment teams and a generator management team with forklifts and fuel trucks

U.S. Coast Guard assets include:

- A mission assignment for a C-130 to move cargo
- 16 boats, two helicopters, and nine airboats for rescue efforts

U.S. Customs and Border Patrol:

- 50 agents to support local law enforcement

American Red Cross:

- Three Incident Medical Assistance Teams have been deployed to Bismarck, Fargo, and Grand Forks. The American Red Cross in Bismarck, Fargo, and Grand Forks deployed:
- 31 emergency response vehicles
- 12 sheltering teams
- 55,000 meals, 3,200 comfort kits, 3,200 cots and 6,500 blankets

The Salvation Army:

- Providing community feeding in five North Dakota counties and supplying cleanup kits in impacted areas.

The state of North Dakota has tasked many of its state agencies to provide help to its citizens affected by the disaster. Services include:

- North Dakota Health Department is evacuating patients from threatened hospitals, nursing homes, and extended care facilities in Fargo
- North Dakota Highway Patrol is assisting with security and road closures
- More than 1,300 North Dakota National Guardsmen are filling sandbags; patrolling dikes; breaking ice jams; and operating traffic control points

FEMA will continue working with local, state and tribal officials to provide essential services, proactively anticipate the needs, and save lives and protect property of North Dakota residents.

For more information on how you can prepare for all hazards, please visit www.fema.gov and www.ready.gov.

FEMA leads and supports the nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation, to reduce the loss of life and property and protect the nation from all hazards including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.



Federal Aid Programs For North Dakota Disaster Recovery

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Following is a summary of key federal disaster aid programs that can be made available *as needed and warranted* under President Obama's major disaster declaration issued for North Dakota.

Assistance for the State and Affected Local Governments Can Include *as Required*:

- Payment of not less than 75 percent of the eligible costs for emergency measures taken to save lives and protect property and public health. (*Source: FEMA funded, state administered.*)

Direct Federal Assistance:

FEMA will provide direct federal assistance through a mission assignment to another federal agency - upon request of the state - when the state and local government certify they lack the capability to perform or contract for the requested work. The state shall agree in advance to reimburse FEMA for the appropriate non-federal share of the work including the overhead of the federal agency assigned the task.

How to Apply for Assistance:

- Application procedures for local governments will be explained at a series of federal/state applicant briefings with locations to be announced in the affected area by recovery officials. Approved public repair projects are paid through the state from funding provided by FEMA and other participating federal agencies.

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Federal, State, and Local Partnerships Key To Flood Fighting In North Dakota

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BISMARCK, N.D. -- The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and numerous federal and state partners are continuing to join forces to support North Dakota communities facing severe flood threats.

On Tuesday, President Obama declared a major disaster declaration for North Dakota. The President's action made federal funding available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations to help in flood fighting efforts.

Prior to the disaster declaration, North Dakota's State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was operating around the clock with support from FEMA's Region VIII (Denver) Emergency Response Team (ERT), the national Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT-West), the National Guard, the American Red Cross, and other federal partners including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the U.S. Small Business Administration.

"This is a true state, local, and federal effort, with volunteers and private citizens all doing their part," said Governor John Hoeven. "We truly appreciate everyone's hard work as well as their cooperation and commitment which is necessary to save lives and property."

"We are reaching out to the governor and local leaders to make sure we are responding to them quickly and efficiently," said Federal Coordinating Officer Mike Hall. "These activities are an example of FEMA's commitment to engage partnerships between federal, tribal, state and local governments, volunteer organizations and the private sector."

In each case, state and local resources are addressing the most immediate needs as federal resources support their efforts:

- FEMA is preparing to ship eight truckloads of ready-to-eat meals, three truckloads of water, 50 emergency generators, one truckload of cots, and one truckload of blankets.

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers deployed more than 130 personnel and have issued three million sandbags, 310 rolls of poly, HESCO Bastion flood walls and pre-positioned 12 water pumps.
- More than 900 North Dakota National Guard troops have provided sandbagging support in Fargo, Grand Forks, and Bismarck. Guard members have been assisting with evacuations and are poised to continue those efforts as needed. National Guard air operations are supporting the movement of aircraft to stage in key areas of the state and providing aerial support for remedying ice jams in west-central and eastern North Dakota.
- The American Red Cross (ARC) has deployed 31 Emergency Response Vehicles to support sandbagging operations with food and water. ARC has stocked 55,000 meals, 3,200 comfort kits, 3,200 cots and 6,500 blankets in addition to 12 sheltering teams. Locally, Red Cross personnel have been helping to open shelters, assisting with evacuations, providing community feeding and distributing cleanup kits.
- The Salvation Army has been providing community feeding in five North Dakota counties along with supplying cleanup kits in impacted areas. In the Fargo (ND)-Moorhead (MN) area alone, 58 volunteers have served more than 5,458 meals.
- Wednesday morning (March 25), U.S. Coast Guard personnel rescued nine people, including one from a tree, in Oxbow, ND (south of Fargo) as part of the agency's overall support mission. To date, Coast Guard assets to North Dakota include: two Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DARTs), each comprised of three boats and 15 personnel (one in Fargo, one in Bismarck); three boats and two helicopters positioned in Grand Forks, four Airboats from Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin positioned in Fargo and Bismarck and a helicopter. A second helicopter is en route to Bismarck Wednesday from New Orleans.
- The North Dakota Highway Patrol has been assisting with security and road closures in key areas of the state.
- The North Dakota Health Department is supporting Richland County with tetanus shots and cleanup kits to test water quality/wells.
- The North Dakota Department of Transportation has been working to reroute rail service in impacted areas, identifying alternative bus routes among cities and determining needed road closures.
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection Air and Marine, based in Grand Forks, N.D., maintains three fixed-wing aircraft, four helicopters, and one Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) which are on standby to assist in the federal response.

While federal, state, and local partners continue to coordinate and prepare, FEMA urges residents in flood prone areas to continue to monitor weather forecasts, heed emergency information from state and local officials and to take their own precautions as needed. There are steps individuals can take now to protect their families during a flood event:

- Have an emergency plan for your family and pets along with a "go" kit that includes copies of key documents like insurance policies, a household inventory of possessions, medications and contact numbers.

- Listen for announcements from local emergency managers regarding evacuation orders, sheltering locations and personal readiness actions.
- Avoid areas already flooded, especially if the water is flowing fast. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams. Do not walk or drive through flooded streets.
- Flood waters often contain raw sewage, so keep children away from these hazards.
- Roadbeds may be washed out under flood waters. NEVER drive through flooded roadways. If your vehicle is suddenly caught in rising water, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.

For more information on how you can prepare for all hazards, please visit www.fema.gov and www.ready.gov.

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