



JIM DOYLE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

July 31, 2010

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

THROUGH

Mr. Andrew Velasquez III
Regional Administrator
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region V
536 South Clark Street, 6th Floor
Chicago, IL 60605-1521

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Wisconsin as a result of flooding, tornadoes and severe storms beginning on July 20 and extending through July 24, 2010. This request is for Grant, Milwaukee and Waukesha counties.

Severe weather began in the State on Tuesday, July 20 with severe storms and rain occurring over a good portion of Wisconsin. On the morning of July 22, 2010 a large area of southern Wisconsin was impacted by moderate to heavy rainfall. Up to 2 inches of rain fell in areas to the west of Madison and up to 1.5 inches of rain was reported in areas east of Madison, including the Milwaukee metropolitan area. Mitchell Field Airport in Milwaukee reported 1.44 inches of rain from the morning storms. This set the stage for the devastating flash flooding that occurred later in the day.

During the afternoon and into the evening hours, a persistent band of strong to severe thunderstorms developed and moved through the south central and southeastern portions of the state. Individual storms within the system moved quite fast, however the line containing these storms did not, resulting in the storms repeatedly training or moving over the same area. Reports of 3 to 4 inches of rain were widespread along

and on either side of the I-94 corridor, with locally higher amounts of 5 to 8 inches. The heaviest rainfall occurred in Milwaukee County, where hourly rainfall amounts of 2 to 4 inches were reported. One local television station on the northeast side of the City of Milwaukee measured 7 inches of rain in approximately 2.5 hours. Mitchell Field recorded 5.61 inches of rain for the day, which is a record for that date. This also is the second highest daily rainfall total on record for Milwaukee.

It was this same frontal boundary that affected Grant County in southwestern Wisconsin from July 22 through 24. During the morning of July 22 widespread rainfall totals of 1 to 2 inches occurred. The next system moved into the southwest part of the state in the afternoon and early evening hours of the 22nd and dumped between 8 and 10 inches of rain in the southern third of Grant County. The final round of heavy rain occurred from the evening hours of the 23rd through the morning hours of July 24 and produced another 2 to 4 inches of rain on areas already saturated. The resulting flash flooding was devastating for Grant County which is a sparsely populated rural area.

It is also important to note that it has been a very wet June and July in most of southern Wisconsin, which certainly contributed to the significance of the July 22 through 24 weather event. This is the wettest July on record in Milwaukee with 10.28 inches of rain so far and also the wettest June and July on record with 17.21 inches of rain. Similarly in the western portion of the State, the City of LaCrosse (north of Grant County) is experiencing its third wettest June and July with 14.98 inches of rain to date. As a result, numerous rivers have been at or near bankfull or floodstage repeatedly over the course of the last month. In addition, soils are saturated and groundwater tables are high, with no place for rainfall to go. Moreover, the State has already experienced 34 tornadoes between the end of April and the present; including 7 which occurred on July 22. The State's average annual number of tornadoes is 21.

In response to the situation, I have taken appropriate action under State law and directed the execution of the State Emergency Plan on July 22, 2010 in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act and issued a State of Emergency Proclamation on July 23, 2010 for Milwaukee County. The Emergency Proclamation directed all agencies of the State of Wisconsin to assist the affected areas in their response and recovery operations and authorized use of the National Guard. The State Emergency Operations Center was activated on the afternoon of July 22 and remained fully operational through 4:30 p.m. on July 24, 2010.

Mitigation is a priority in the State of Wisconsin and with our county and local governments. I am proud to convey that the State Hazard Mitigation Standard Plan was approved by FEMA on December 9, 2008 and the Enhanced Plan on June 15, 2009. Both the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County also have FEMA approved all-hazards mitigation plans with the former approved on June 16, 2006 and the latter on April 27, 2006. The same is true of Grant County; its all-hazards countywide plan was approved by FEMA on October 31, 2007. We will look for every opportunity to reduce future disaster losses by identifying cost-beneficial and environmentally sound mitigation measures.

On July 27, I requested a joint Federal, State and local survey of the damaged areas. Teams surveyed damages to both the public and private sectors in Grant and Milwaukee counties and the private sector in Waukesha County. It is apparent from initial damage surveys by the state and the counties and from the Preliminary Damage Assessment that the impacts of this disaster will be far reaching and long lasting. Unfortunately, one fatality occurred in Milwaukee County when a car was swept away by flood waters in Lincoln Creek and the occupant drowned. Two people were injured when they were struck by lightning and two additional injuries were reported as a result of the storms, including one person who was injured when his vehicle plunged into a 20 foot deep and 20 to 40 foot wide sinkhole. In Milwaukee County two shelters were opened for people who were evacuated from their homes and at least 30 individuals were reported homeless as a result of the floods.

Regarding the private sector, thousands of homes have sustained varying degrees of damage and a very small percentage of the losses will be covered by flood insurance or sewer back-up clauses in standard homeowner policies. The figures presented by Milwaukee County Emergency Management indicate that countywide 9,568 homes were affected, 1,304 had minor damage, 205 had major damage and 5 were destroyed. The Preliminary Damage Assessment verified that Milwaukee County had 169 homes affected, 218 with minor damage, 47 with major damage and 6 destroyed. The number of affected and minors is significant in that most of those homes had water in the basement for a period of time. In Wisconsin, most furnaces, water heaters and other appliances such as washers and dryers are located in the basement and even two inches of water in and around those appliances, especially the furnaces, can have a detrimental effect. Those appliances will need at a minimum to be professionally cleaned and tested and some will need replacement. This will be a hardship for the low income residents, especially in the City of Milwaukee, who do not carry and cannot afford flood insurance. (It is significant to note that June unemployment rates in the City of Milwaukee exceeded both the State and national averages.) Initial reports from Waukesha County indicated that 849 homes were affected, 290 had minor damage and 2 had major damage. The Preliminary Damage Assessment in Waukesha County verified that 13 homes were affected, 4 had minor damage and 1 had major damage. Grant County also initially reported 700 homes affected by the flood waters, 10 with minor damage and 4 that were destroyed. With a countywide population of less than 50,000 people, this constitutes a significant number of persons who have been impacted. Flooding in southern Grant County also washed out a number of driveway bridges and culverts, leaving homes inaccessible. The Preliminary Damage Assessment verified that in Grant County 3 homes were affected, 7 had minor damage, 7 had major damage and 1 was destroyed.

Public health impacts from the flooding are and will continue to be a great concern. Basement flooding in particular can easily and quickly cause mold and mildew issues that are especially hazardous to those with compromised upper respiratory systems. Also, since much of the water in the basements in Milwaukee County was sewer back-up, the basements must be thoroughly disinfected to eliminate or diffuse the spread of bacteria. This will be a hardship on the elderly and special needs populations who will require assistance to accomplish the clean-up. In Grant County there are also reports

of private wells that were inundated with flood waters and they will all have to be tested to ensure they are free of contamination.

Both counties reported that small businesses have also been damaged and some closed temporarily because of the flooding. As you know, this is a particularly difficult time for small businesses and even the slightest of impacts from the floods will affect the overall stability of their operations. Especially in Grant County, small businesses play a key role in the local economy thereby exacerbating the impacts of the damages.

The impacts of the flooding on the public sector are equally as devastating. In Milwaukee County a number of schools were inundated with flood waters and sewer back-up. At this point it is still unclear how much of that damage will be covered by insurance. But with many school budgets fiscally strapped, it will be a challenge to get the schools cleaned, repaired and ready for the school year which will begin within the next month. Other public buildings, including police and fire facilities suffered damage, as did first response equipment. Dozens of local and county roads and culverts were undermined or washed out and will require substantial repairs. In the interim, traffic will have to be rerouted and barricades maintained. A number of wastewater treatment facilities, including the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District have been working over capacity and sustained damages. Storm and sanitary sewers were compromised and unable to accommodate the heavy rainfall. Also, recreation trails and parks have been severely damaged and those facilities are a draw to our many tourists. It is imperative that they be repaired and restored quickly so as to minimize the effect on the local economies. City and county departments have hauled away tons of debris from the curbside to solid and hazardous waste sites, incurring substantial unbudgeted costs. Local emergency responders and public works crews incurred significant costs in the initial hours after the storms, evacuating people, conducting search and rescue operations and clearing roadways of debris.

I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local governments and that supplementary Federal assistance is necessary. Thus, I am specifically requesting that the following Individual Assistance Programs be made available in Grant, Milwaukee, and Waukesha counties: the Individual and Households Program including the Other Needs Assistance Program, the Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Program, the Immediate Services and regular Crisis Counseling Programs and the Disaster Unemployment Assistance Program. In the case of Grant County I also request that appropriate programs offered by the US Department of Agriculture be made available, as crops were affected by the extraordinary rainfall.

I request that the Public Assistance Program Categories A through G be made available in Grant and Milwaukee counties. Public Assistance costs as tabulated in Enclosure B exceed \$12 million. I reserve the right to request additional counties and assistance at a later date for both Individual and Public Assistance.

I also request that you make the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program available statewide. As indicated previously, the State and counties have FEMA approved mitigation plans, as does the City of Milwaukee. The State has an approved Enhanced Mitigation Plan

so we look forward to funding additional projects with the increased mitigation dollars we will receive as a result of that status.

Preliminary estimates of the types and amount of assistance needed under the Stafford Act are tabulated in Enclosures A and B. Estimated requirements for assistance from certain Federal agencies under other statutory authorities are tabulated in Enclosure C.

The following information is furnished on the nature and amount of State and local resources that have been or will be used to alleviate the conditions of this disaster.

1. Upon notification of the flooding and severe weather, Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) began monitoring the situation closely. The State Emergency Operations Center was activated around the clock from the afternoon of July 22 through 4:30 p.m. on July 24. Contact was established and is being maintained with the respective county emergency management directors through the WEM Regional Directors who were dispatched to the most severely impacted areas to support county/local efforts. WEM is coordinating the compilation of damage assessment information from local assessment teams. County and local governments activated their Emergency Operations Centers and responded to the immediate needs of those impacted. County and local law enforcement, emergency medical and fire personnel responded to emergency calls throughout the crisis period. Public works and highway crews are working to maintain essential services. The Grant County Board Chair and the Milwaukee County Executive declared local States of Emergency as did the Mayor of the City of Milwaukee.
2. The Milwaukee Fire Department logged 50 rescues from homes and streets. All Lake Michigan beaches in Milwaukee were closed through the weekend of July 24-25. Officials in the City of Milwaukee also responded to more than 2,000 calls for sewer backups in basements and over 4,400 reported water-filled basements. Mitchell International Airport was closed late on July 22 through 2:00 p.m. on July 23. Once the airport opened there were significant delays.
3. The State Patrol assisted local law enforcement in closing roads and rerouting traffic. They also worked closely with DOT Division of Highways and the State Traffic Operations Center to reroute traffic that was detoured due to road closures. During the crisis period they provided information to the public on the status of road closures. State Patrol personnel also staffed the State Emergency Operations Center.
4. The Wisconsin National Guard Joint Operations Center monitored weather conditions, staffed the Emergency Operations Center, and stood ready to provide assistance if requested.
5. The Department of Transportation Division of Highways also worked with county highway commissioners to assess damage to state, county and township roads.

6. The Department of Natural Resources provided guidance to local officials on the disposal of debris and waste. Department personnel are monitoring the operation of local wastewater treatment facilities as well as the quality of drinking water in public wells.
7. The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services-Public Health officials continue to work with local health departments. Local health departments have provided sampling kits to test private wells that have been flooded. Tetanus vaccines have been made available through local health departments. They have provided information to the public on flood clean-up measures and on handling food that has been contaminated by flood waters. They also have worked with the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) to obtain and supply clean-up kits for individuals to clean their basements. Wisconsin Emergency Management ordered and had delivered additional cleanup kits to augment those obtained through local agencies and VOAD.
8. The Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance has been providing consumer protection information to the public and monitoring insurance related issues.
9. County and local highway and public works crews worked to keep roads and arteries clear so that emergency vehicles and power crews could gain access to the affected areas.
10. The county emergency management directors worked with local officials to respond to the immediate needs of disaster victims. They continue to compile countywide damage assessment reports for submission to Wisconsin Emergency Management.
11. The county human services agencies, in coordination with the local Red Cross, Salvation Army and other voluntary organizations opened shelters for those displaced from their homes.
12. Crews from local utilities worked diligently to maintain and/or restore gas/electrical and telephone service.

I certify that for this major disaster, the State and local governments will assume all applicable non-federal shares of costs required by the Stafford Act. Total expenditures are expected to exceed \$3 million, in accordance with the table in Enclosure D.

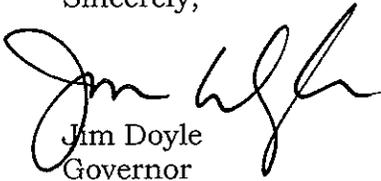
In addition, I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health and safety. Pursuant to Section 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b & 5173, the State agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State agrees that the debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

I have designated Michael T. Hinman as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will coordinate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in damage assessments and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

In closing, I want to reaffirm the urgency of this request and emphasize the need to assist the victims and municipalities as quickly as possible so that they can begin to recover. Each of these counties has been involved in two Presidential Disaster Declarations in the last three years, including the devastating floods of 2008, which was our most costly flood event in history. The counties are still trying to recover from those events and will now have to shoulder the burden of yet another disaster. I must further advise that the state has experienced at least four other disaster events this year, which were not of the proportion to request federal disaster assistance, but nonetheless have placed a considerable burden on the impacted citizens and governments. In those events, the State will be assisting county and local units of government in recouping some of their costs through the Wisconsin Disaster Fund and the Wisconsin Flood Damage Aid Program. Where feasible, Community Development Block Grant funds will also be used to help low to moderate income individuals. This illustrates the State's commitment to helping those in need, but now it is time for the federal government to help also.

I, therefore, respectfully request that you review this documentation and act quickly to declare a major disaster for the State of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,



Jim Doyle
Governor

ENCLOSURE A TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST
 Estimated Requirements for Individual Assistance under the Stafford Act

	Assistance to Individuals and Households					Other Programs (Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Legal Services, and Crisis Counseling)
	Temporary Housing <i>(Indicate No.)</i>	Repairs	Replacement	Permanent Housing Construction	Other Needs Assistance	
TOTALS	98/ \$82,303	206/ \$1,636,146	5/ \$145,660		139/ \$176,808	TBD

ENCLOSURE B TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Requirements for Public Assistance

Stafford Act

CATEGORY

County	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Grant	31,000	1,200	676,500					708,700
Milwaukee	1,946,100	885,190	2,775,200	310,000	1,823,010	2,385,760	1,245,100	11,370,360
State Agencies	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Totals:	1,977,100	886,390	3,451,700	310,000	1,823,010	2,385,760	1,245,100	12,079,060

ENCLOSURE C TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs

County	SBA Home Loans	SBA Business Loans	FSA Loans	NRCS	FHWA	USACE	OTHER
Grant	23/ \$193,000	3/ \$30,000	TBD	TBD			
Milwaukee	362/ \$5,359,000	29/ \$921,000					
Waukesha	18/ \$236,000	1/ \$3,500,000					
Totals	403/ \$5,788,000	33/ \$4,451,000					

ENCLOSURE D TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Governor's Certification

I certify that for this current disaster, State and local government expenditures and obligations will include the non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act. As stated in my basic letter, and based on information available at this time, tabulation of these estimated expenditures and obligations are as follows:

CATEGORY OF ASSISTANCE	AMOUNT	
	STATE	LOCAL
Individual Assistance:		
"Other Assistance" under the Individuals and Households Program	44,202	0
Other (specify)		
Total:	44,202	
Public Assistance:		
Category A - Debris Removal	247,137.50	247,137.50
Category B - Emergency Protective Measures	110,798.75	110,798.75
Category C - Roads and Bridges	431,462.50	431,462.50
Category D - Water Control Facilities	38,750.00	38,750.00
Category E - Buildings and Equipment	227,876.25	227,876.25
Category F - Utilities	298,220.00	298,220.00
Category G - Other (Parks, Recreational Facilities, etc.)	155,637.50	155,637.50
Total:	1,509,882.50	1,509,882.50
Grand Total:	\$1,554,084.50	\$1,509,882.50