



For Immediate Release
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Governor Walker Requests Federal Disaster Assistance for Blizzard

Madison – Governor Scott Walker today requested federal disaster assistance for 10 southern Wisconsin counties for a blizzard that hit the area in early February. A declaration would help local governments recover some of the costs responding and cleaning up after the storm.

The counties named in the request are Dane, Dodge, Grant, Iowa, Kenosha, Lafayette, Milwaukee, Racine, Walworth and Washington. The major winter storm began on January 31 and continued through February 2, 2011 bringing heavy snow and blizzard conditions.

"Emergency responders and snowplow drivers worked long days and nights during the blizzard, keeping our roads safe," said Governor Walker. "The costs associated with the response and snow removal hit many local budgets hard. I am hopeful that Wisconsin will receive federal assistance to help provide relief to our local governments."

Last week, a team with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) worked with state and local agencies in verifying snow totals and costs associated with the storm. In the Governor's request letter, FEMA reported the total eligible cost associated with the blizzard was more than \$9.5 million in the ten counties. To receive a federal disaster declaration, a location must have received a record or near record snowfall.

Under a declaration, FEMA would provide reimbursement to local and state agencies for 75 percent of the total eligible costs for a 48 hour period in response and cleanup of the blizzard. The state and local governments would equally share the remaining costs.

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