

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DENNIS DAUGAARD, GOVERNOR

May 27, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20034

Through:
Sharon Loper, Acting Regional Administrator
FEMA Region VIII
Denver Federal Center
PO Box 25267
Denver, CO 80225-0267

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 Declaration for Individual Assistance as the result of a severe storm and tornado event that occurred May 10, 2015, for the South Dakota counties of Douglas and Charles Mix.

On May 10, 2015, an EF-2 tornado touched down in southeast South Dakota. The tornado's width was 400 yards, had peak winds of 130 mph and traveled over 16 miles before fading. This left 9 people injured and the City of Delmont in shambles. The local Emergency Operations Center (EOC) opened immediately, along with the State EOC. For two days, the entire city was without power and water. The local fire department was destroyed and hazardous debris was scattered throughout the town. The tornado damaged 57 homes of which 14 sustained major damage and 27 were considered completely destroyed. This tornado left 41 percent of the City of Delmont's residential structures damaged, and 72 percent of those homes have major damage or are completely destroyed. Delmont is a small community with a population of only 234; more than 12 percent of the population lives below the federal poverty level.

During the incident, 89 percent of the population in Delmont voluntarily evacuated due to hazardous power lines on the ground, leaking propane tanks, and hazardous trees throughout the town. The affected survivors are still unable to return to their homes. These individuals are now living in campers, renting temporary housing, or staying in a hotel. Available housing in this area is non-existent. Delmont is 40 miles away from a

city that is large enough to provide housing resources. Displaced residents will have to move for long periods of time because the community doesn't have the resources to absorb the people who are displaced. This also leads citizens to experience longer commutes to school and work. Eventually, these citizens may decide to leave the community permanently due to these factors.

The lives of these displaced residents have been disrupted beyond belief. These survivors go to work during the day and then spend their nights and weekends trying to clean-up, reclaim, and rebuild their property from the devastating tornado. Their children's lives have been completely uprooted. Families living in hotels now have additional food expenses since they can no longer cook a meal at home. The uncertainty of the survivor's future home combined with the loss of all of their personal belongings and sentimental memories tied to their home is taking a toll on survivors.

One encouraging thought that particularly kept responders, local leaders, and state officials going was the fact that no lives were lost. Unfortunately, 9 people were injured when their homes collapsed on them. One individual was in serious condition, 2 were considered in critical condition, and 6 had minor injuries. Thankfully, warning sirens alerted the community to take shelter in basements and this ultimately saved lives.

The tornado also overwhelmed the community by leveling the fire hall in Delmont. It damaged emergency vehicles inside, forcing Delmont to borrow fire suppression resources from the neighboring City of Amour. This fire hall was only two months old; it was so new it wasn't officially dedicated yet. The Zion Lutheran Church was also destroyed. This historical one hundred year-old church had two hundred congregation members, and was a gathering point for members of the community. It was an essential piece of the community's emotional stability providing church services, prayer, Sunday school and a place for social gatherings. The Methodist Church was also destroyed. The tornado had such severe impacts to the integrity of the church that it was no longer safe to hold community functions there.

As demonstrated year after year, South Dakotans are very resilient people. Right now volunteers are joining together to help one another in the aftermath of this tornado. Significant manpower and equipment have been made available to the locals and private and voluntary agencies have been dedicated to respond to this event. In response to this tornado event and in accordance with federal law, I have taken appropriate action under state law and directed the execution of the State Emergency Operations Plan on May 10, 2015. Affected counties also have issued disaster declarations for their jurisdictions. The South Dakota Office of Emergency Management coordinated the following resources to aid local government response to the severe storm:

- Staff members of the SD Association of Rural Water Systems brought equipment necessary to help Delmont get the water system up and running.
- The SD Office of Emergency Management (OEM) provided staff members to assist local officials and assist in disaster clean up, donations management, and coordinating donations for the distribution center. OEM also provided a five

person Incident Management Assistance Team that assisted the locals by providing incident management, resource requests and technical disaster assistance.

- Two neighboring counties provided emergency management mutual aid and served with the Incident Management Team.
- The State Emergency Operations Center was activated to support local governments responding to the tornado.
- The SD Highway Patrol provided aerial reconnaissance to document for emergency officials the impacts on infrastructure the tornado created. This aerial intelligence provided critical ground-truth and situational awareness to decision-makers in the State Emergency Operations Center. Highway Patrol also provided eleven patrolmen that controlled access into the area through a credentialing system. The patrolmen also delivered tetanus shots to local hospitals in case volunteers needed the treatment while performing debris cleanup. A total of 62 shots were issued.
- The South Dakota National Guard activated twenty 25 soldiers to provide debris cleanup. Their equipment included two dump trucks and one pay-loader with grapple fork. They helped the community by removing 182 loads of debris. This debris needed to be removed immediately as it was impeding emergency traffic in Delmont and was a hazard to the residents and volunteers.
- Water and commodities were provided by the Red Cross to support survivors and volunteers.
- 517 volunteers provided countless volunteer hours geared toward debris removal and donated meals and water for workers helping with clean up.
- A Joint Information Center was set-up to ensure a consistent message was being delivered amongst state and local officials.
- Disabled American Veterans issued monetary donations to veterans and their spouses who had damage to their homes. They also supplied hygiene kits to survivors.
- Lewis and Clark Behavior Health Services provided emotional support to families who were suffering through a great deal of loss.
- The American Legion helped families fill out grant applications from the American Legion. The grant can be used for food, clothing and sheltering needs as a result of the tornado.
- A Multi Agency Resource Center (MARC) was established and 59 cases were opened by the Red Cross. These cases assisted over 100 individuals with immediate needs. In addition to the Red Cross and other voluntary agencies, a variety of state agencies were also on-site to assist those impacted with needs.
 - SD Housing Development Authority helped families by providing information on affordable housing and apartments available in the area. They also referred families to agencies who can provide assistance for utilities.
 - Department of Social Services assisted families by restoring benefits and helping families apply to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

- Department of Revenue assisted by waiving penalties to businesses on late sales tax returns and by providing advice on the procurement of contractors.
- Department of Labor and Regulation - Division of Insurance provided information to homeowners about how different insurance policies work, what losses are covered and how to report damages.

South Dakotans living in rural areas enjoy a quiet lifestyle; whether it's camping, boating, fishing, or just enjoying time being with friends at social gatherings. The small town of Delmont had those resources and was a great place for families and friends to spend time together and relax. This year, those opportunities aren't available to many people. Citizens affected by the tornado are now forced to spend the entire summer regrouping and organizing their lives. I understand that not having recreational opportunities does not, in and of itself, warrant an Individual Assistance Declaration; but it helps paint a picture of the impacts this event is having in South Dakota. This tornado is most certainly impacting the normal way of life for the entire community and their extended family and friends.

As we continue to move through the recovery phase of this incident, communities are looking to our voluntary agencies for assistance and support as we navigate through this historic event. The American Red Cross, Lutheran Social Services, and Adventists Community Services are providing critical services to displaced residents, including mental health services, meals, cleanup kits, and shelter. Our voluntary agencies are an absolute essential part of our response and recovery efforts. Their resources are limited, especially when considering South Dakota experienced five Presidential disaster declarations in the past two years. I'm concerned at this point our voluntary agencies will not be able to meet the long-term, unmet recovery needs of our tornado survivors.

As you understand, recovery from a disaster takes years and even longer if no federal assistance is made available. Residents of this small South Dakota town need your assistance to help them recover and return them to the new normal lifestyle. Homeowners staying with family and friends in cramped quarters cannot stay there for the duration of the long-term recovery process. Long term housing is needed for these individuals so they can begin to have some type of normalcy in their lives. Without Individual Assistance, this is not an option for many of the homeowners as they have ongoing bills to pay on their destroyed home and do not have the income to pay for two homes.

In the last two years, the State of South Dakota has experienced 5 disasters that resulted in Presidential Disaster Declarations, with eligible public infrastructure damage totaling \$81.6 million. As 2015 approached, we hoped for a quieter year. Unfortunately, South Dakota is faced with another difficult year due to tornado destruction. These 5 Presidential disaster declarations covered a 45 county area and damaged roads, buildings, created dangerous travel, killed livestock and leveled individual houses from each event.

On May 15, 2015, I requested from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), a joint federal, state, and local Individual Assistance and Small Business Administration preliminary damage assessment of the impacted areas. This Individual Assistance and Small Business Administration assessment was conducted on May 19, 2015, and the assessment confirmed severe impacts to individual homes and business in the two counties.

I have determined this tornado (and severe storm event) is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local governments, and supplemental Federal assistance is necessary.

I respectfully request that you declare a Major Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. subsections 5121-5206 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR subsection 206.36. I am specifically requesting Individual Assistance programs including the individuals and households program, disaster case management, crisis counseling, disaster unemployment assistance, and disaster legal services. I am also requesting that U.S. Small Business Administration disaster loans be made available. The following is a list of counties for which I am requesting assistance: Douglas and Charles Mix.

I am also requesting the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program statewide. South Dakota has experienced much success in the past with mitigation projects. This incident presents us with another opportunity to mitigate future damages. The State is committed to mitigation projects in order to lessen the impacts of future disasters. This is evidenced by our approved standard Statewide Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, which prioritizes mitigation projects. The standard Statewide Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved on April 17, 2014.

I certify that for this major disaster, the State and local governments will assume all applicable non-Federal share required by the Stafford Act.

I have designated Tina Titze as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. She will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Again, I sincerely appreciate your consideration of my request and your willingness to assist South Dakota's citizens in this time of need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis Daugaard".

Dennis Daugaard

cc: Senator Mike Rounds
Senator John Thune
Representative Kristi Noem

Enclosures:

OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13

Enclosure A: Individual Assistance

Enclosure C: Estimated Assistance from Other Federal Agency Programs

**REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION
MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY**

1. Request Date May 22, 2015

Burden Disclosure Notice

Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 9 hours per response. The burden estimate includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and submitting the form. This collection of information is required to obtain a benefit. You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to: Information Collections Management, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472, Paperwork Reduction Project (1660-0009). **NOTE: Do not send your completed form to this address.**

Completion of this form including applicable attachments satisfies legal requirements for emergency and major disaster declaration requests under 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170 and 5191, respectively, as implemented at 44 C.F.R. §§ 206.35 and 206.36. Failure to use this form may result in a failure to meet these requirements and/or a delay in processing the request.

2a. Name of State (as defined in Stafford Act 102, 42 U.S.C. § 5122) or Indian tribal government requesting declaration. South Dakota	2b. Population (as reported by 2010 Census) or estimated population of Indian tribal government's damaged area(s). 0
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3. Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Name Dennis Daugaard	4. Designation of State or Tribal Coordinating Officer upon declaration (if available) and phone number Tina Titze (605) 773-3231
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5. Designation of Governor's Authorized Representative or Tribal Chief Executive Representative upon declaration (if available) and phone number
Tina Titze (605) 773-3231

6. Declaration Request For: Major Disaster (Stafford Act Sec. 401) Emergency (Stafford Act Sec. 501(a))

7. Incident Period: Beginning Date May 10, 2015 End Date May 10, 2015 or Continuing *If requesting a "continuing" incident period, enclose an official statement from a qualified Federal Government agency acknowledged as a national authority in a specific incident field (e.g., United States Geological Survey for seismic incidents, the National Weather Service for flooding).*

7b. Type of Incident (Check all that apply)

- Drought Earthquake Explosion Fire Flood Hurricane Landslide Mudslide
 Severe Storm (rain, high water, wind-driven rain, hail, lightning) Snowstorm (Must include Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data) Straight-Line Winds
 Tidal Wave Tornado Tropical Depression Tropical Storm Tsunami Volcanic Eruption Winter Storm
 Other (please specify) _____

8. Description of damages (Short description of impacts of disaster on affected area and population). Include additional details in enclosed Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's cover letter.
The counties of Douglas and Charles Mix sustained public and private infrastructure damage as a result of severe storms and a EF2 tornado that struck the town of Delmont and outlying areas near Delmont.

9. Description of the nature and amount of State and local or Indian tribal government resources which have been or will be committed. Include additional details in enclosed Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's cover letter.
Significant state, local and voluntary resources were deployed in response and recovery of this disaster. The state provided emergency management, law enforcement, National Guard, health officials, and resources along with the coordination of many voluntary agencies. A detailed listing is provided in the request letter.

10. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment*

Individual Assistance Dates Performed Requested May 15, 2015 Start May 19, 2015 End May 19, 2015

Individual Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)
N/A

Public Assistance Dates Performed Requested _____ Start _____ End _____

Public Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)
N/A

11. Programs and Areas Requested

Individual Assistance N/A Individuals and Households Program Crisis Counseling Program Disaster Unemployment Assistance Program
 All Disaster Case Management Disaster Legal Services

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)) If additional space is needed, please enclose additional documentation).

Douglas and Charles Mix County to include the City of Delmont.

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes in the requested counties (if applicable).
No tribal governments were affected.

Please see **Enclosure A: Supplemental Information for Individual Assistance** for additional information in support of this request*.

*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Public Assistance N/A Debris Removal (Category A) Emergency Protective Measures (Category B) Permanent Work (Categories C-G)* (not available for Emergency Declaration Requests)

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)). If additional space is needed or your request includes different categories of work for different jurisdictions; please enclose additional documentation.

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes included in the requested counties (if applicable).
N/A

Please see **Enclosure B: Supplemental Information for Public Assistance** for additional information in support of this request*.

Indemnification for Debris Removal Activity

I do not anticipate the need for debris removal.

I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health and safety. Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b & 5173, the State or Indian tribal government 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 or Indian tribal government agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

Request for Direct Federal Assistance

I do not request direct Federal assistance at this time.

I request direct Federal assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property, and:

a. I request the following type(s) of assistance:
N/A

b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services.
N/A

c. In accordance with 44 C.F.R. § 206.208, the State or Indian tribal government agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance: (1) Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-ways necessary to accomplish the approved work; (2) Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work, and shall indemnify the Federal Government against any claims arising from such work; (3) Provide reimbursement to FEMA for the non-Federal share of the cost of such work in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State or FEMA-Tribe Agreement ; and (4) Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

Request for Snow Assistance

N/A I request snow assistance.

Snow assistance for the following jurisdictions (Specify counties, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas).
N/A

Please see **Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data** for additional information in support of this request*.

*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Hazard Mitigation* Statewide OR

For the following specific counties, parishes, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas.

12. Mitigation Plan Information*

a. Mitigation Plan Expiration Date April 19, 2019 b. Type of Plan Enhanced Standard

13. Other Federal Agency Programs

I do not anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies I do anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies

Please see **Enclosure C: Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs** for additional information in support of this request*.

14. Findings and Certifications

I certify the following:

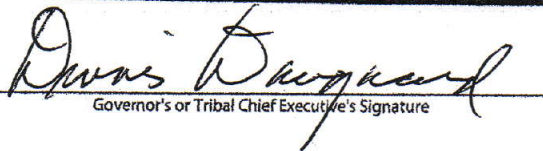
a. I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local government or Indian tribal government and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary.

b. In response to this incident, I have taken appropriate action under State or tribal law and have directed the execution of the State or Tribal Emergency Plan on May 10, 2015 in accordance with the Stafford Act.

c. The State and local governments, or Indian tribal government will assume all applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

15. List of Enclosures and Supporting Documentation

- Cover Letter Enclosure A (Individual Assistance)* Enclosure B (Public Assistance)*
- Enclosure C (Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs) Enclosure D (Historic and Current Snowfall Data)
- Additional Supporting Documentation _____


Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Signature

May 22, 2015
Date

If anyone except the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive signs this document, please provide the documentation that establishes that this individual has the legal authority to act on behalf of the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive.

*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

ENCLOSURE A

Estimated Requirements for Individual Assistance under the Stafford Act

County Name	Destroyed	Major	Minor	Affected	Affected Getting Assistance	Total	% Owner	% Insured	% Low Income
Douglas	27	13	11	5	0	56	96%	80%	80%
Charles Mix	0	1	0	0	0	1	100%	100%	0%

INDIVIDUALS AND HOUSEHOLDS PROGRAM (IHP) COST ESTIMATES				
STATE:	South Dakota			
INCIDENT DATE:	5/10/15			
ESTIMATED HOUSING ASSISTANCE (HA)	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS (Uninsured)	COST	TOTAL COST	CATEGORY TOTAL COST
TEMPORARY HOUSING				\$6,777
Rent (Pre-Disaster Renters)- 1 month	0		\$372	
Rent (Owners w/Major or Destroyed)- 1 month	8		\$6,405	
REPAIR ASSISTANCE				\$74,476
Repair Costs (Owners w/Affected)	1	\$1,500	\$1,500	
Repair Costs (Owners w/Minor)	2	\$3,588	\$7,176	
Repair Costs (Owners w/Major)	2	\$32,900	\$65,800	
REPLACEMENT ASSISTANCE				\$160,815
Replacement Cost (Owners w/Destroyed)	5	\$32,163	\$160,815	
Total Estimated Housing Assistance (HA)	10		\$242,068	
Estimated Average HA Award per Household		\$24,207		

ESTIMATED OTHER NEEDS ASSISTANCE	NUMBER (Uninsured)	COST	TOTAL COST	CATEGORY TOTAL COST
ONA (All Renters and Owners w/Affected, Minor, Major)	6	\$1,329	\$7,976	
ONA (Owners- Destroyed)	0	\$1,329		

Total Estimated Other Needs Assistance (ONA)	6		\$7,976	\$7,976
Total Estimated Federal Share (75%)		\$5,982		
Total Estimated State Share (25%)		\$1,994		
Estimated Average ONA Award per Household		\$1,329		
Total Estimated HA and ONA (Federal Share)			\$248,050	

