



NEWS RELEASE

Department of Public Safety

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FEMA Rejects State Request for Individual Assistance for May Tornado

PIERRE, S.D. - South Dakota received word Wednesday that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has rejected the state's request for Individual Assistance programs to help residents impacted by a tornado in May.

The denial of Individual Assistance came in a letter from FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, who said damage to homes and businesses fell short of the severity and magnitude to warrant federal assistance.

"Here in South Dakota, we all know how much the May tornado impacted the residents of Delmont, Douglas County, and Charles Mix County," said Tina Titze, director of the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management. "Unfortunately, FEMA declined to find that we meet their requirements for Individual Assistance programs.

Governor Dennis Daugaard called the denial disappointing but said South Dakotans will continue to work together to help individuals and the Delmont community recover over the coming weeks and months.

The last time South Dakota qualified for a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance was in 2011 for damages to homes and businesses caused by Missouri River flooding.