



NEWS RELEASE

## Department of Public Safety

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### **Gov. Dugaard Seeks FEMA Preliminary Damage Assessment of Tornado Damage to Homes and Businesses**

PIERRE, S.D – Gov. Dennis Dugaard has requested that FEMA and the Small Business Administration (SBA) join state teams for a preliminary damage assessment of impacts to homes and businesses in two South Dakota counties resulting from the May 10 tornado.

The Governor requested preliminary assessments of damage to private homes and businesses in Charles Mix and Douglas Counties, including the town of Delmont. The process, called an Individual Assistance Preliminary Damage Assessment, is the first step to determine if FEMA's Individual Assistance program or the SBA's disaster loan program will be made available to help residents with recovery.

"Moving our citizens quickly into the recovery process is important," Gov. Dugaard said. "These assessments will give us an accurate picture of the damages to homes and businesses in Delmont and in the rural areas of Douglas and Charles Mix Counties. That information will help us determine whether federal financial assistance or low-interest loans might be available for tornado survivors with damaged homes or businesses."

Dugaard said the assessments will be conducted on Tuesday, May 19.

If the preliminary damage assessment indicates that damage is beyond the capability of local and state resources to handle, federal assistance could become available.