

32 Counties Receive Presidential Disaster Declaration

Governor Culver received notification that President Obama has authorized a Presidential Disaster Declaration for 32 Iowa counties. The presidential declaration is retroactive to June 1, 2010.

The declaration provides federal funding for 32 counties. Public Assistance Program funding, which provides funding to rebuild damaged infrastructure and public facilities, is available to Adams, Appanoose, Audubon, Buena Vista, Butler, Cherokee, Clay, Davis, Decatur, Franklin, Howard, Humboldt, Iowa, Lee, Lyon, Madison, Marion, Mills, Monroe, Montgomery, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Ringgold, Shelby, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Wayne, Webster, and Wright County.

Governor Culver additionally asked for funding through the federal Individual Assistance Program, which provides help to homeowners and small business owners. That request is still pending.

Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division Administrator David Miller said, "Since damage assessments are continuing, including in Delaware County where the Lake Delhi dam breached on July 24, we will use the results to bolster our request that the Individual Assistance Program be activated and that additional counties be approved for Public Assistance funding and the Individual Assistance Program."

The federal funding also includes funding to conduct hazard mitigation activities throughout the state. This funding is intended to minimize the impact of future natural disasters by improving existing infrastructure.

Replacement Copy Fees Waived

Governor Culver issued a proclamation for residents of counties under disaster proclamations, suspending the fee and five-day waiting period for issuance of a replacement copy of an original title, registration card, or license plate if the car owner claims in writing that the car was lost or destroyed because of flooding or dam breach. The suspension is effective through August 27th.

The Governor also issued a disaster proclamation that waives fees for replacement copies of vital records and recreational vehicle registration documents destroyed due to severe weather and flooding. The proclamation applies in the 45 Iowa counties under state disaster proclamations from the series of storms that began on June 1st.

The proclamation also suspends issuance fees for duplicate registrations and title certificates for snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and boats, and for duplicate hunting and fishing licenses and hunter safety certificates, when the owner submits a written statement that the originals were lost or destroyed in the storms or flooding.