



COOK COUNTY
Department of Homeland Security
& Emergency Management
69 West Washington Street- Suite 2630
Chicago, IL, 60602



County Board President
TODD H. STROGER

Executive Director
DAVID R. RAMOS SR.

Date: Thursday, August 19, 2010

To: All Local
Cook County Elected Officials
Cook County Fire Departments
Cook County Police Departments
Cook County EMA/ESDA Departments
Cook County Public Works Departments

From: David R. Ramos Sr.
Executive Director

Subject: Individual Assistance Disaster Declaration.

The Cook County Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHSEM) has been advised by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that President Barack Obama has signed a Disaster Declaration for Cook County for Individual Assistance.

This declaration authorizes FEMA to begin working with local residents to issue disaster assistance grants. Cook County DHSEM will be working in conjunction with FEMA and the local municipalities to effectively help residents recover from the flooding disaster that the county suffered on July 24th.

As FEMA assistance teams come in to the area, DHSEM will coordinate the establishment of Disaster Recovery Centers to facilitate a swift response to Cook County residents. Because there is still a time frame before these centers can be established, Cook County residents can contact FEMA directly to begin the process. For residents to register they can visit <http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov> or call 1-800-621-FEMA(3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (local time) seven days a week until further notice.

At this time a Declaration of Disaster for Public Assistance has not been approved. However, as more information becomes available, DHSEM will keep Cook County municipalities informed.

Attached is the White House press release that can be found at the White House Website: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/08/19/president-obama-signs-illinois-disaster-declaration>

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please call our office at (312)603-8180. A duty officer is available 24/7.

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 19, 2010

President Obama Signs Illinois Disaster Declaration

The President today declared a major disaster exists in the State of Illinois and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding during the period of July 22 to August 7, 2010.

The President's action makes Federal funding available to affected individuals in the counties of Carroll, Cook, DuPage, Jo Daviess, Ogle, Stephenson, and Winnebago.

Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

W. Craig Fugate, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security, named Gregory W. Eaton as the Federal Coordinating Officer for Federal recovery operations in the affected area.

FEMA said additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the State and warranted by the results of further damage assessments.

FEMA said that residents and business owners who sustained losses in the designated counties can begin applying for assistance tomorrow by registering online at <http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov> or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA(3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (local time) seven days a week until further notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: FEMA (202) 646-3272.