

Brian Sandoval
Governor



James Wright
Director

Caleb S. Cage
Chief

Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security

2478 Fairview Drive Carson City, Nevada 89701 <http://dem.nv.gov>

Like us on [Facebook](#) follow us on [Twitter](#)

January 27, 2017

Gail Powell
Public Information Officer
Nevada Department of Public Safety
Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security
775-687-0325 or gpowell@dps.state.nv.us

Media Release

The Nevada Department of Public Safety's Division on Emergency Management has formally requested the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct a joint Federal/State Preliminary Assessment

The Nevada Department of Public Safety's Division on Emergency Management (DEM) has formally requested the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to conduct a joint Federal/State Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) team in the following counties: Carson City, Douglas County, Lyon County, Storey County, Washoe County and the Pyramid Lake Band of Paiute Tribe's Reservation.

The State's PDA team spent time in the field with county officials and tribal nations affected by the recent winter storms in northern Nevada in early January. County officials worked closely with the state PDA team to determine the amount of damage to public infrastructure as well as attempting to determine private property damage following state and FEMA damage assessment criteria.

Once the preliminary assessments are complete, Governor Sandoval, based on the data provided, will determine whether a major disaster declaration request should be made. If granted by the President, the federal major disaster declaration would provide assistance to public entities like cities, counties, schools, and certain private not-for-profit organizations for uninsured and eligible storm-related damage to public infrastructure. Eligible costs would be reimbursed based on a 75-25 split, meaning that FEMA will reimburse 75 percent of eligible costs, and the state, tribal nations, or municipalities (or certain non-profits) are responsible for 25 percent.

The joint Federal/State PDA team will begin the week of January 30, 2017. DEM will coordinate the damage assessment with FEMA and the affected counties, state agencies, and tribal nations.

Page 1 of 2

People seeking information about disaster-related services should call:

- Washoe County, Reno and Sparks - 2-1-1 or 1-866-535-5654
- Douglas County - 775-782-9099 or 775-783-6404
- Carson City - 775-887-2355
- Lyon County - 775-463-6531 or flood@lyon_county.org -submit photos, video, a statement of the damages along and home owner's contact information.
- Storey County - 775-847-0966

Disaster Declaration Process

When an event occurs that is beyond the response and recovery capabilities of local and state governments, the State of Nevada initiates a process to seek assistance from the Federal Government.

Local and State Officials Conduct an initial Preliminary Damage Assessment – This assessment occurs shortly after the storm occurs. Local officials inform DEM of the damage to public infrastructure within their community and the impacts to residents.

DEM Requests FEMA to Conduct a Preliminary Damage Assessment – Teams from the affected county, DEM and FEMA conduct the assessment. They view the damage and collect the cost estimates from county officials. Each county must meet its individual threshold and the state must also meet a threshold of \$3.8million statewide.

DEM Prepares the Governor's Request for a Disaster Declaration – A letter details the event and cites National Weather Service data. It must document factors that determine severity, magnitude and impact. It also documents what local officials did to respond to the emergency. Local input regarding impact to the community is gathered and incorporated in the letter. This includes the amount and type of damage, impact on infrastructure, impact on essential services, concentration of damage, level of insurance coverage, assistance available from other sources, and if there is an imminent threat to public health and safety.

Governor Submits the Letter to the President through FEMA – FEMA reviews and sends the letter, with its recommendation to the President. The President is the only one with authority to grant a Presidential Disaster Declaration. If assistance programs are approved, DEM officials work in partnership with FEMA to assist disaster victims in their application for funds.

#####