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# NEWS RELEASE

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## Dubuque County Receives Presidential Disaster Declaration

DUBUQUE, Iowa -- Dubuque County is one of 29 Iowa counties that has been granted a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance.

The disaster declaration makes federal assistance available to affected individuals and families in the declared counties. Disaster 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 heavy rain events of July and August.

Residents and business owners who sustained losses in the designated counties may immediately begin registering for assistance 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). Applicants registering for aid should be prepared to provide basic information about themselves, details on insurance coverage, and any other information to help substantiate losses.

“It is important for people to register and go through the process with FEMA,” said Dubuque County Emergency Management Coordinator Tom Berger. “There will be different programs available that could help Dubuque County residents recover from the recent heavy rainfall and in order to be eligible for those programs everyone who had damages needs to get registered.” Berger also added that people who applied for the Department of Human Services (DHS) Individual Disaster Grant will also need to apply with FEMA because the DHS program is no longer active since we received the presidential declaration.

The counties included in the declaration are: Black Hawk, Cherokee, Clayton, Decatur, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Franklin, Hamilton, Howard, Humboldt, Ida, Jackson, Jones, Kossuth, Lee, Lucas, Lyon, Marion, O'Brien, Osceola, Ringgold, Sioux, Story, Taylor, Union, Warren, Webster, and Wright.

The State of Iowa will ask for joint preliminary damage assessments to be conducted with FEMA and local officials in counties most recently impacted by the flooding and to request Individual Assistance be granted for those counties.

The 29 counties that have been declared for Individual Assistance will be added to the Presidential Disaster Declaration that authorized Public Assistance funding for 32 counties on July 29 and 18 counties on August 13. Public Assistance funds are available to state and local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations (including rural electric cooperatives and municipal utilities) for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities.

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