



FEMA

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Press Release

PRESIDENT DECLARES MAJOR DISASTER FOR ALASKA

WASHINGTON – The head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) today announced that federal disaster aid has been made available for the State of Alaska and ordered federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts in the area struck by flooding and ice jams beginning on April 28, 2009, and continuing.

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate said the president's action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in the Alaska Gateway Regional Educational Attendance Area (REAA), the Kuspuk REAA, the Yukon Flats REAA, and the Yukon-Koyukuk REAA.

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 also is also available to state and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the flooding and ice jams in the Alaska Gateway Regional Educational Attendance Area (REAA), the Kuspuk REAA, the Lower Kuskokwin REAA, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Yukon Flats REAA, and the Yupit REAA.

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

Fugate named Douglas G. Mayne as the Federal Coordinating Officer for federal recovery operations in the affected area. Mayne said that additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the state and warranted by the results of further damage assessments.

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.

FEMA leads and supports the nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation, to reduce the loss of life and

property and protect the nation from all hazards including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.

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