

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Aug. 10, 2011

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Gov. Branstad Requests Major Disaster Declaration for Dubuque and Jackson Counties

Assistance from the U.S. Small Business Administration Requested for Dubuque County

DES MOINES – Governor Terry E. Branstad has asked President Obama to declare a Major Disaster for Public Assistance for two Iowa counties. The two counties in the request are Dubuque and Jackson.

The Governor is making the request in response to the severe storms and torrential rains that impacted the area July 27–29.

“The storms and flooding caused extensive damage to infrastructure in the two impacted counties,” said Governor Branstad. “We need the assistance of the federal government to aid in the recovery. This is why I have requested that the President sign a Major Disaster Declaration for Iowa.”

A Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance puts into motion long-term federal recovery programs, some of which are matched by state programs, and designed to help public entities and select non-profits. Public Assistance funds may be used for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities and may include debris removal, emergency protective measures, repair of damaged public property, loans needed by communities for essential government functions and grants for public schools.

The State may ask for additional counties to be added if the damage warrants such a request.

In addition, the Governor is requesting that the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) grant a Physical Disaster Declaration for Dubuque County. A Physical Disaster Declaration would make available to Dubuque County residents the Disaster Loan Program, which would allow low-interest loans to be made available to those impacted by flash flooding that occurred July 27–28.

On Aug. 3, state, local and federal officials conducted a joint preliminary damage assessment along with representatives from the SBA and determined there was sufficient damage to homes and businesses to warrant a request for a Physical Disaster Declaration.

For more information, please visit www.governor.iowa.gov or www.iowahomelandsecurity.org .

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