



SCOTT WALKER

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 9, 2016

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Governor Walker Announces Federal Disaster Declaration for July Floods

Madison - Governor Scott Walker today announced a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) major disaster declaration for northern Wisconsin counties impacted by flooding in July. The counties named in the declaration are Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Florence, Iron, Sawyer and Washburn Counties and the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa Tribe.

“This declaration allows local governments affected by the July floods to apply for assistance, which will help communities recover some of the costs incurred through fighting the floods and repairing infrastructure such as roads and removing debris,” said Governor Walker. “We will continue to work with the communities to help them quickly recover from the flooding.”

Last week, Governor Walker formally requested a federal disaster declaration for those areas impacted. Although impacted by the event, Price County did not sustain enough damage to qualify for the federal assistance.

Multiple rounds of storms hit the area beginning July 11, bringing 8-12 inches of rain that caused widespread damage. Flash floods damaged numerous roads and bridges, washed out culverts, and devastated Saxon Harbor. Preliminary damage assessments determined the storms caused more than \$25 million in damage to public infrastructure across the state.

The major disaster declaration is for Public Assistance, which covers eligible projects submitted by counties, cities, townships, and certain private, not-for-profit organizations. The program is not for businesses or homeowners as the level of damage in these areas, unfortunately, does not currently meet requirements for federal relief.

Communities in the affected counties are now eligible for federal assistance. They should contact their county emergency management director for further information. Under the program, FEMA provides 75 percent of eligible costs, while state and local agencies share the remaining 25 percent.

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