

Governor Quinn Requests Federal Assistance to Speed Recovery from Flash Flooding in Northwest Illinois

Written by Katelyn Tye
Monday, 29 August 2011 09:08

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Would Help Carroll, Jo Daviess and Stephenson Counties

CHICAGO – August 26, 2011. Governor Pat Quinn today requested federal assistance to help people, businesses and local governments in Carroll, Jo Daviess and Stephenson counties recover from flash flooding in late July. In a letter to President Barack Obama, Governor Quinn requested federal assistance to help local governments in the three counties recoup 75 percent of their disaster-related expenses. Governor Quinn also requested assistance from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to help people and businesses in Jo Daviess and Stephenson counties that were affected by the 15 inches of rainfall.

“The people in Northwest Illinois have suffered through three major weather-related disasters in the past 12 months,” Governor Quinn said. “With many roads washed out and hundreds of homes damaged, federal assistance is needed to help these communities quickly recover.”

Earlier this week, representatives from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) met with local government representatives in the three counties to review flood and storm-related expense information, including costs for emergency protective measures, debris removal and repair or replacement of government-owned facilities. That review determined that local government expenses related to the flooding total more than \$7.5 million.

Representatives from IEMA, FEMA and the SBA also toured the area this week to assess

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damage to homes and businesses. Governor Quinn used information from the damage assessments to certify that Jo Daviess and Stephenson counties each had at least 25 homes or businesses that have sustained uninsured losses of 40 percent or more, as required for SBA assistance.

If Governor Quinn's request is approved, low-interest loans would be available to people and businesses in Jo Daviess and Stephenson counties, as well as adjacent Carroll County.

On August 10, Governor Quinn declared the three counties state disaster areas and pledged the state's commitment to helping the area recover.

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