

News Release



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While San Bernardino County awaits the decision of a Presidential Declaration, the County Fire Office of Emergency Services (OES) has compiled a list of resources for victims of the December 2010 and January 2011 storms and floods. The attached flyer contains information from city, county, state and federal agencies that may be of assistance to residents as they try to recover from the damages caused to home and property.

Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) teams consisting of representatives from the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA), FEMA and the Small Business Administration (SBA) toured various damaged sites in the County during the first week in January. City and County representatives met with the teams to show them the significant public and private property damage so they may determine the estimated amount of damage. The Initial Damage Estimates now total more than \$95.5 million for San Bernardino County alone.

The decision for a Presidential Declaration for either Public or Individual Assistance will rely in part on the results of these visits. If there is no federal emergency declaration for public assistance, CalEMA will cover 75 percent of the eligible costs incurred by the local agency. If there is a federal emergency declaration, FEMA will cover 75 percent of the eligible costs; CalEMA will cover 18.75 percent of the eligible costs; the local government agency is responsible for the remaining 6.25 percent. Receiving a Presidential Declaration for Individual Assistance (IA) would mean that private property owners (homes/business) would be eligible to submit claims for cost recovery. The other option for private property owners would be low-interest loans from the Small Business Administration (SBA). Under current law, there is no state program available to provide loans or grants to affected homeowners, renters and business owners without a presidential disaster declaration.

On December 21, 2010, San Bernardino County Chairman Gary Ovitt proclaimed a local emergency, followed shortly after by Governor Schwarzenegger, who proclaimed a state of emergency in San Bernardino County. On December 29, 2010, Acting Governor Abel Maldonado sent a letter to President Obama requesting the declaration of a major disaster. Jurisdictions proclaim a local emergency when circumstances of a disaster are, or are likely to be, beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment and facilities of any single county, city and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to combat.

For more information on resources, please visit our website at www.sbcfire.org or call 2-1-1 or (888) 435-7565.



Dan Wurl
Fire Chief