



OREGON OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2015 Flood Emergency Declaration Fact Sheet *December 11, 2015*

Background

Severe storms beginning on Dec. 7 are causing heavy rains, high winds, flooding, landslides, and erosion in many parts of Oregon, resulting in critical transportation failures, loss of power and communications capabilities, property and infrastructure damage, and evacuations and sheltering needs. The complex storm systems have caused damaged to state highways throughout affected communities with scour, washouts, sinkholes, debris flows and mudslides.

Declaration Process

As an emergency develops, local resources are mobilized to respond. As they respond, private sector resources, mutual aid from neighboring communities, and volunteer organizations supplement response efforts. Once local resources are overwhelmed, local governments can declare a local emergency and request assistance from the state. The Governor then declares a state of emergency and makes state resources available to assist impacted local governments. OEM then coordinates with local jurisdictions to assess damages and determine losses and recovery needs. If the impacts exceed certain criteria and thresholds, a major disaster declaration is requested by the Governor to the President. If the magnitude and severity warrants, the President then declares a major disaster to enable supplementary federal disaster assistance.

State Declaration

- The Governor can declare a state of emergency under authority granted in Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) Chapter 401.165
- On December 11, 2015 Governor Brown declared a state of emergency in 13 Oregon counties including Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Washington and Yamhill.
- This is the mechanism in which state resources including, but not limited to, personnel, equipment and facilities can be provided to the counties to prevent or alleviate hardships and damages.
- The state emergency declarations enable declared counties to request resources from the state to address storm impacts.
- This declaration allows Oregon to request assistance from the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Emergency Relief Program.
- Oregon Department of Transportation is completing their "letter of intent" to seek funding from the FHWA.

Federal Declaration

- If Oregon state resources are depleted the state can seek federal disaster assistance from FEMA through a presidential major disaster declaration.
- As damage assessment continues, it will be determined whether or not a federal declaration is needed. *See resources list for more information.*

Resources

- Federal Highway Administration Emergency Response Program
 - <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/specialfunding/er/guide.pdf>
- Federal Declaration Fact Sheet
 - <https://www.fema.gov/declaration-process-fact-sheet>
- Federal Declaration Process
 - <https://www.fema.gov/disaster-process-disaster-aid-programs>
- Public Assistance Program
 - http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/Pages/fin_rec/Public-Assistance-Program.aspx
- Damage Assessments
 - http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/Pages/fin_rec/IDA.aspx
- Winter Storm 2014
 - http://www.oregon.gov/OMD/OEM/Pages/fin_rec/dr-4169-or.aspx