



Charlie Crist
Governor



Ruben D. Almaguer
State Coordinating Officer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 10, 2009

MEDIA CONTACT: PIO – ESF14
(850) 921-0217

GOVERNOR CRIST REQUESTS THAT 11 FLORIDA COUNTIES RECEIVE A FEDERAL PRESIDENTIAL DECLARATION IN RESPONSE TO SEVERE WEATHER AND FLOODS

TALLAHASSEE – Governor Charlie Crist today sent a letter to President Barack Obama, through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), requesting that 11 Florida counties receive a major disaster declaration as a result of the severe storms and flood events occurring from March 26, 2009 and continuing today.

If granted, the Presidential Declaration will provide Public Assistance funds to Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Liberty, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton and Washington counties. The Governor also requested that the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program be granted for the entire state.

Public Assistance funds will provide necessary aid to state and local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities. It is anticipated that additional counties will also become eligible for federal assistance once the water levels recede and damage assessments can be conducted.

“Many of these communities are rural and economically disadvantaged,” said Ruben D. Almaguer, State Coordinating Officer for Florida. “Federal disaster assistance will be vital for their recovery.”

For additional information on the Florida State Emergency Response Team and the Florida Division of Emergency Management, please visit www.FloridaDisaster.org.

All students, teachers and parents can find educational information and free downloadable materials at: www.KidsGetAPlan.com.

And for the latest daily situation and flash reports go to:
www.YouTube.com/FloridaSERT .

###