



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

July 9, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D. C. 20500

Through: Regional Administrator Nancy Ward
FEMA Region IX
1111 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94607-4052

Subject: Request for Major Disaster Declaration for Yarnell Hill Fire

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I respectfully request that you declare a Major Disaster for the State of Arizona as a result of the Yarnell Hill Fire which began on June 28, 2013 and to date has claimed 19 lives and has destroyed 109 homes.

On June 28, 2013, a lightning strike ignited a wildland fire in Yavapai County, approximately 1.5 miles west of the Town of Yarnell. On Sunday, June 30, 2013, the fire rapidly escalated in intensity and grew from several hundred acres to several thousand acres by the end of the night. As of Monday morning, July 8, 2013, the fire was estimated to have consumed 8,400 acres and is 90% contained.

It is with great sadness we report 19 firefighters were killed fighting the fire on Sunday, June 30, 2013. All of the firefighters were members of the Granite Mountain Hotshot Crew, a local fire team and part of the Prescott Fire District, based approximately 30 miles from the fire. The sacrifice given by these brave firefighters will never be forgotten and their efforts can never be repaid. The community, the State and the Nation grieve the loss of these dedicated individuals.

The Arizona Division of Emergency Management has conducted the preliminary damage assessment (PDA) to concretely identify the impact of the fire on residential structures. Because

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of the severity of the fire, the decision was made to conduct a joint Federal-State PDA. Representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the United States Small Business Administration (SBA), the Arizona Division of Emergency Management, Yavapai County officials, and the Grand Canyon Chapter of the American Red Cross were present. The assessment yielded the following results: 109 homes were destroyed, 2 homes sustained major damage, and 21 homes experienced minor damage.

Yarnell is a small, isolated, and unincorporated community. According to the United States Census Bureau, the housing stock of Yarnell consists of approximately 500 housing units. A complete loss of over 100 homes represents a 20% loss of housing stock and, to a community of this size, has a tremendous impact on its long-term recovery.

Currently, there are two Red Cross shelters that remain open, which have been established to support the evacuation of Yarnell and the surrounding areas. The shelters are located at the Wickenburg High School, in Wickenburg, and Yavapai College, in Prescott. The populations served were 158 persons at Wickenburg and 193 at Yavapai College. The Grand Canyon Chapter of the American Red Cross is currently running both shelters, and has been supported by the national American Red Cross organization. The Arizona Division of Emergency Management has deployed an Access and Functional Needs Support Kit to each of the shelters to meet the needs of the residents of the shelters. This kit contains items to help persons who may have physical difficulties staying in a shelter. Members of the Arizona Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) are also on standby and prepared to respond when requested.

On Monday, July 8, 2013, the Arizona Division of Emergency Management, in conjunction with Yavapai County Office of Emergency Management and VOAD partners, established an Individual Assistance Service Center to gather information on residents' unmet needs and will attempt to meet as many of these needs as possible with local resources. Residents of the community of Yarnell were allowed to reenter the community at 9:00 a.m. yesterday, and the Individual Assistance Service Center is open and operational to welcome the residents back to their homes.

In response to the situation, I have taken appropriate action under State law and directed the execution of the State Emergency Plan on July 1, 2013, in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act. On July 1, 2013, I declared a State of Emergency for Yavapai County effective June 28, 2013, and continuing, pursuant to A.R.S. § 26-303(D). In addition to the State Declaration of Emergency, Yavapai County Board of Supervisors declared a State of Emergency and issued a Fire Disaster Declaration on June 30, 2013. The State of Arizona received a Fire Management Assistance Grant that was issued on June 30, 2013, to help pay for costs associated with the suppression of the fire.

In addition to the Yarnell Hill Fire, the Doce Fire began burning in north-central Yavapai County on June 18, 2013. The County issued a Declaration of Emergency on June 18, 2013 and the State subsequently followed with a Declaration of Emergency on June 20, 2013. The fire threatened several subdivisions and caused the evacuation of approximately 500 homes. The Doce Fire has burned more than 6,700 acres and is 100 percent contained. Fortunately, no homes were

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destroyed and infrastructure losses have been minimal. However, it has been extremely taxing on local resources to fight and manage two large wildland fires within such a close time frame.

As previously indicated, the joint State-Federal PDA identified 109 homes that were destroyed, and, in addition, 2 homes with major damage and 21 with minor damage. While conducting the damage assessment, the teams attempted to identify factors that could present barriers to effective disaster recovery. The teams were in concurrence that several factors could pose challenges in Yarnell's recovery, including a high concentration of damages, trauma to the community and the special population that resides in the area.

I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that an effective response is beyond the capability of the State and the affected local governments and that supplementary Federal assistance is necessary.

I am specifically asking for Direct Federal Assistance in the form of Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) program support for the Yarnell Hill Fire burn area. This request would include specially-trained professionals and resources to assess and determine if emergency conditions exist. Where present, we request resources to alleviate emergency conditions to help stabilize soil, control water, sediment and debris movement, prevent impairment of eco-systems, mitigate threats to health, safety, life and property downstream, and monitor the implementation of emergency treatments.

Due to the significant loss of residential structures in the Yarnell Hill Fire, the unique demographic, and additional considerations which must be weighed, the State respectfully requests a Major Disaster Declaration with the inclusion of the Individual Assistance Program and Disaster Case Management Services based on 44 CFR § 206.48(b)(1), (2), and (3).

- 44 CFR § 206.48(b)(1): Concentration of Damages

In addition to a loss of 20% of Yarnell's housing stock, the unincorporated community of Yarnell consists of 575 housing structures, per the 2010 US Census. The joint State-Federal PDA verified that 109 homes were destroyed. That figure represents a loss of approximately 20% of the Yarnell's housing stock. The average assessed value of a home in Yarnell is \$63,000 per the Yavapai County Assessor's Office, resulting in an estimated loss of \$6,800,000 in homes. Yarnell has a population of 663 residents. A loss of 109 homes to a population of this size is extremely significant.

Yarnell is a rather isolated community, only accessible via Arizona Highway 89. Yarnell is perched on Yarnell Hill, with a dramatic rise of 1,300 feet from the desert floor over four miles. There are no major services in Yarnell and the closest sizable towns are Wickenburg and Prescott, located 25 and 30 miles away, respectively, both along mountainous roads. The town does not boast any major employers, with most residents working at local independent businesses. According to the Yarnell-Peoples Valley Chamber of Commerce, there are only twelve for profit businesses in the Town of Yarnell. Yavapai County has been struggling for several years to build and maintain its Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and prior to the Yarnell Hill Fire,

the group was not organized. We are anticipating this isolation and lack of local resources will present a major challenge to the community's holistic recovery.

- 44 CFR § 206.48(b)(2): Trauma

The devastating loss of 19 firefighters in the Yarnell Hill Fire will never be forgotten. This tragedy has been extremely distressing on the residents of Yarnell and Yavapai County. The firefighters were members of the Granite Mountain Hotshot Crew which is part of the Prescott Fire Department, located just 30 miles from Yarnell. Many of the lost homes are within a very short distance to the area where the firefighters were killed. There is a coordinated effort by critical incident stress management teams in place in Yavapai County to help residents and first responders cope with the loss of these firefighters.

- 44 CFR § 206.48(b)(3): Special Populations

The population of Yarnell has several special demographics that should be considered when weighing the community's ability to recover from this event. When compared to the general population of the State of Arizona and the Nation, the Yarnell area has a significantly higher portion of elderly residents (for purposes of this letter "elderly" is defined as anyone over 65). Approximately 35% of residents of Yarnell are above the age of 65, in comparison with the State and Nation, both with approximately 13% of the population. According to county representatives, the subdivision that sustained the largest concentration of damages is where many of the community's elderly lived, which would suggest that the impacted population may even have a higher population of elderly than determined by the census of Yarnell. A large portion of these residents are likely on a fixed income, which will inhibit their ability to commit any personal financial resources to their own recovery. Additionally, many of these elderly residents have lived in the community and their homes for decades. Per the county building inspectors, a significant portion of homes that were built during this era were not subject to building codes and, therefore, were likely not insurable by commercial insurance companies, creating a further challenge for these residents.

Additionally, the median household income of the community of Yarnell is less than half of the average of the State of Arizona. This leads to an estimated 28% of the population of Yarnell at or below the Federal poverty level.

While the exact levels of insurance coverage are yet to be determined, based on an informal survey conducted by the county at the community meetings, it is estimated that approximately 70% of the residents feel they are uninsured or underinsured. Additionally, the current demographic data gathered and information ascertained from local residents strongly suggest that it will be very difficult for those who lost their homes and are un/under insured to recover from this event.

	Average of Persons Below Poverty Level*	Median Household Income*	Percent Elderly (Over 65)*	Percent Pre-Disaster Unemployment*
National Average	14.3%	\$52,762	13.1%	8.7%
State/Tribe Average	16.2%	\$50,752	13.8%	8.9%
Yarnell	28%	\$26,250	35.6%	5%

* Source: 2010 U.S. Census, American Fact Finder

Another concern for the residents of the community of Yarnell will be the lack of an available rental stock for residents who have lost homes. During the joint State-Federal PDA, no rental properties or apartment communities were observed. In further discussions with the County, they are also unaware of any significant rental stock in Yarnell, which could provide a temporary home for residents who have had their permanent homes destroyed. The nearest communities with possible available rental stock to house the displaced residents are located in Wickenburg and Prescott, 25 and 30 miles away. This distance could create an extreme hardship for some of the residents who would need to travel this distance while attempting to rebuild their homes. Another potential hardship for those who will need to rent property will be the financial challenge of obtaining a rental property in a higher rent area. Due to the low income of the community, we anticipate that rental prices in Wickenburg or Prescott may be prohibitive to a large population of the displaced residents.

Environmental health impacts on the population affected by the Yarnell Hill wildfire are significant. Numerous residents are reliant on well water, which must be tested to ensure potability. Wells serving less than 15 residents are the responsibility of the residents, who are required to ensure they are tested and disinfected prior to use. In addition, the municipal water supply has suffered numerous leaks requiring repair and necessitating a boil water advisory in the area. The lack of safe drinking water endangers the community, placing residents at increased risk of waterborne illness and chemical contamination.

Food safety and risk of food borne illness are also a significant concern in the community due to power outages sustained to the region as a result of firefighting activities. Residents must dispose of large quantities of perishable foods that are no longer safe for human consumption due to inappropriate holding temperatures for greater than four hours. Retail food establishments and restaurants were subject to power outages as well and must be inspected by local sanitarians before they open for business in order to verify the safety of these establishments.

Behavioral health services are critical in the community, and needs for these services will be persistent as residents return to their homes and begin the process of recovery. When disaster strikes, people react with increased anxiety, worry and anger. Expanding services for disaster survivors who may require more help will be critical in the coming weeks and months. The State may need to contract with providers to facilitate effective mental health and substance abuse stabilization services.

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Arizona is also requesting the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) be made available statewide with a priority given to applications submitted from within the area of impact for this event in Yavapai County. It is important to note that the State of Arizona has a State Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was approved by FEMA on November 9, 2010. It is understood that all HMPG applications must have a FEMA approved multi-hazard mitigation plan to be considered eligible.

The most severe impacts sustained under the Public Assistance program categories have been captured by the state and county partners. These costs are relative to debris removal (Category A), emergency protective measures (Category B) and water utility infrastructure (Category F).

Category A:

Yavapai County will be addressing the debris removal needs of the community with roll-off dumpsters designated for food waste and building materials that will be placed in designated areas throughout the unincorporated community of Yarnell. There are also sites designated to receive white goods and household hazardous waste. Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) are supporting the monitoring of the bins and outreach to the impacted homeowners. In the coming days our field teams will be better equipped to identify specific unmet needs relative to debris removal as we have only recently gained safe access to the area.

Category B:

Yavapai County has incurred costs associated with maintenance of its emergency operations center and Individual Assistance Service Center. Two 1500-gallon potable water tenders have been placed in the community to support the potable water issues. The City of Prescott also has and continues to incur costs related to backfill of emergency services personnel for both fire and law enforcement. The significant loss of the fallen firefighters has had a great impact on this close knit community of Prescott. The first responders who had close relationships to the fallen are in a 'leave' status due to the psychological stresses of this grave situation. The surrounding communities are supporting the City of Prescott with backfill of emergency services personnel to ensure the City maintains adequate and appropriate readiness, ensuring the day-to-day operations relative to the safety and security of the community are being met.

Category F:

The water district that serves the community of Yarnell has suffered damages to its infrastructure. This is the single potable water source for the community. Currently, impact to the water utility at this time is: 120 services are offline, 8 locations that cross roadways are demonstrating leaks, and multiple meters/boxes are destroyed. There are two main waterlines that run from the water tanks down to the community; this is a gravity-fed system. There is grave concern as to the long-term stability of this utility and its ability to serve the community in the coming months.

The power utility is a private, for profit operation. They have re-established power distribution to the area.

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At this time we are not requesting the Public Assistance Program. The Arizona Division of Emergency Management is diligently working to identify the financial costs relative to the items noted above. As soon as this information has been quantified, we will request a joint preliminary damage assessment to validate findings.

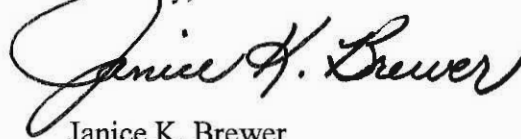
I certify that for this current disaster, State and local government expenditures and obligations will include the non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

At this time, the State of Arizona is not requesting any Direct Federal Assistance (DFA). If necessary in the future, we will complete the necessary certifications.

If there is a need for support relative to debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health, and safety, pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170(b) and 5173, the State agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

I have designated Wendy Smith-Reeve as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. She can be reached at 602-464-6203. Ms. Smith-Reeve will work with the FEMA during the damage assessment process and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,



Janice K. Brewer
Governor

Enclosure:

OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13

cc: Major General Hugo Salazar, Director
Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs

Wendy Smith-Reeve, Director
Arizona Division of Emergency and Military Affairs

**REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION
MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY**

1. Request Date Jul 8, 2013

Burden Disclosure Notice

Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 9 hours per response. The burden estimate includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and submitting the form. This collection of information is required to obtain a benefit. You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to: Information Collections Management, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472, Paperwork Reduction Project (1660-0009). **NOTE: Do not send your completed form to this address.**

Completion of this form including applicable attachments satisfies legal requirements for emergency and major disaster declaration requests under 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170 and 5191, respectively, as implemented at 44 C.F.R. §§ 206.35 and 206.36. Failure to use this form may result in a failure to meet these requirements and/or a delay in processing the request.

2a. Name of State (as defined in Stafford Act 102, 42 U.S.C. § 5122) or Indian tribal government requesting declaration. State of Arizona	2b. Population (as reported by 2010 Census) or estimated population of Indian tribal government's damaged area(s). 6,392,017
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3. Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Name Janice Brewer	4. Designation of State or Tribal Coordinating Officer upon declaration (if available) and phone number Wendy Smith-Reeve. 602-464-6203
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5. Designation of Governor's Authorized Representative or Tribal Chief Executive Representative upon declaration (if available) and phone number
Wendy Smith-Reeve. 602-464-6203

6. Declaration Request For: Major Disaster (Stafford Act Sec. 401) Emergency (Stafford Act Sec. 501(a))

7. Incident Period: Beginning Date Jun 28, 2013 End Date _____ or Continuing *If requesting a "continuing" incident period, enclose an official statement from a qualified Federal Government agency acknowledged as a national authority in a specific incident field (e.g., United States Geological Survey for seismic incidents, the National Weather Service for flooding).*

7b. Type of Incident (Check all that apply)

Drought Earthquake Explosion Fire Flood Hurricane Landslide Mudslide

Severe Storm (rain, high water, wind-driven rain, hail, lightning) Snowstorm (Must include Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data) Straight-Line Winds

Tidal Wave Tornado Tropical Depression Tropical Storm Tsunami Volcanic Eruption Winter Storm

Other (please specify) _____

8. Description of damages (Short description of impacts of disaster on affected area and population). Include additional details in enclosed Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's cover letter.
On Sunday, July 7, 2013 the Arizona Division of Emergency Management conducted the preliminary damage assessment (PDA) to concretely identify the impact of the fire on residential structures. Because of the severity of the fire, the decision was made to conduct a joint Federal-State PDA. Representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the United States Small Business Administration (SBA), the Arizona Division of Emergency Management, Yavapai County officials and, the Grand Canyon Chapter of the American Red Cross were present. The assessment yielded the following results: 109 destroyed homes, 2 homes sustained major damage, and 21 homes with minor damages.

9. Description of the nature and amount of State and local or Indian tribal government resources which have been or will be committed. Include additional details in enclosed Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's cover letter.
In response to the situation, the Governor has taken appropriate action under State law and directed the execution of the State Emergency Plan on July 1, 2013, in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act. On July 1, 2013 the Governor declared a State of Emergency for Yavapai County effective June 28, 2013 and continuing, pursuant to A.R.S § 26-303(D). In addition to the State Declaration of Emergency, Yavapai County Board of Supervisors declared a State of Emergency and issued a Fire Disaster Declaration on June 30, 2013. The State of Arizona received a Fire Management Assistance Grant that was issued on July 30, 2013 to help pay for costs associated with the suppression of the fire. Additional resources will be outlined in the declaration request letter.

10. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment*

Individual Assistance Dates Performed Requested Jul 6, 2013 Start Jul 7, 2013 End Jul 7, 2013

Individual Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)

The State is confident that county representatives were able to show members of the joint PDA teams all homes that sustained damages.

Public Assistance Dates Performed Requested _____ Start _____ End _____

Public Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)

At the time of the Preliminary Damage Assessment, the State did not feel it was necessary to conduct a public assistance PDA.

11. Programs and Areas Requested

Individual Assistance N/A Individuals and Households Crisis Counseling Program Disaster Unemployment Assistance
 All Disaster Case Management Disaster Legal Services

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)) If additional space is needed, please enclose additional documentation).

Yavapai County

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes in the requested counties (if applicable).
Not applicable

Please see Enclosure A: Supplemental Information for Individual Assistance for additional information in support of this request*.

*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Public Assistance N/A Debris Removal (Category A) Emergency Protective Measures (Category B) Permanent Work (Categories C-G)* (not available for Emergency Declaration Requests)

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)). If additional space is needed or your request includes different categories of work for different jurisdictions; please enclose additional documentation.

At this time, the State is not requesting the Public Assistance Program. The Arizona Division of Emergency Management is diligently working to identify the financial costs related to the above categories.

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes included in the requested counties (if applicable).
Not applicable

Please see **Enclosure B: Supplemental Information for Public Assistance** for additional information in support of this request*.

Indemnification for Debris Removal Activity

I do not anticipate the need for debris removal.

I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health and safety. Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b & 5173, the State or Indian tribal government agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State or Indian tribal government agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

I request direct Federal assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property, and:

Request for Direct Federal Assistance

I do not request direct Federal assistance at this time.

I request direct Federal assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property, and:

a. I request the following type(s) of assistance:
Not applicable

b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services.
Not applicable

c. In accordance with 44 C.F.R. § 206.208, the State or Indian tribal government agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance: (1) Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-ways necessary to accomplish the approved work; (2) Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work, and shall indemnify the Federal Government against any claims arising from such work; (3) Provide reimbursement to FEMA for the non-Federal share of the cost of such work in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State or FEMA-Tribe Agreement ; and (4) Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

Request for Snow Assistance

N/A I request snow assistance.

Snow assistance for the following jurisdictions (Specify counties, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas).

Please see **Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data** for additional information in support of this request*.

*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Hazard Mitigation* Statewide

OR

For the following specific counties, parishes, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas.
Yavapai County

12. Mitigation Plan Information*

a. Mitigation Plan Expiration Date November 9, 2013 b. Type of Plan Enhanced Standard

13. Other Federal Agency Programs

I do not anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies I do anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies

Please see **Enclosure C: Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs** for additional information in support of this request*.

14. Findings and Certifications

I certify the following:

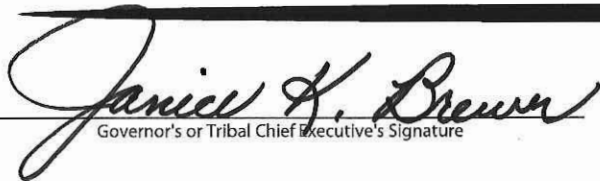
a. I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local government or Indian tribal government and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary.

b. In response to this incident, I have taken appropriate action under State or tribal law and have directed the execution of the State or Tribal Emergency Plan on Jun 28, 2013 in accordance with the Stafford Act.

c. The State and local governments, or Indian tribal government will assume all applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

15. List of Enclosures and Supporting Documentation

- Cover Letter
- Enclosure A (Individual Assistance)*
- Enclosure B (Public Assistance)*
- Enclosure C (Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs)
- Enclosure D (Historic and Current Snowfall Data)
- Additional Supporting Documentation _____


Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Signature


Date

If anyone except the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive signs this document, please provide the documentation that establishes that this individual has the legal authority to act on behalf of the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive.

*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request