

**INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE APPROVED MAY 28 2010**

**President Approves Appeal  
for FEMA Flood Aid for Residents, Businesses**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Contact:  
860-524-7313

**Governor Rell: President Approves Appeal  
for FEMA Flood Aid for Residents, Businesses**

*Governor Filed Appeal of Earlier Denial Just 24 Hours Ago*

Governor M. Jodi Rell tonight announced that President Obama – responding within 24 hours of an appeal spearheaded by the Governor – has reversed an earlier decision and approved federal disaster assistance for homeowners, renters and businesses affected by the severe storms that swept through Connecticut in March.

“This is wonderful news – and it is exactly the right decision,” Governor Rell said. “The information we provided just a day ago to the federal government demonstrated conclusively that Connecticut’s residents and employers suffered major, unreimbursed losses from these storms. They need help – and now they are getting it.

“The response to our request for people to report damage to the state was tremendous, and I want to thank the people who helped us make this appeal stronger,” the Governor said. “Connecticut residents are resilient people – but nature is a force to be reckoned with and sometimes even the strongest need help. The damage from flooding, the week-long power outages and the high winds and downed trees was astonishing.

“I also want to thank the Federal Emergency Management Agency officials who assisted us in our appeal, the DEMHS officials who worked so hard pulling it together, and the state’s Congressional delegation who supported us so effectively,” the Governor said. “This is a team effort – all on behalf of our residents.”

President Obama, in April, had initially denied a request for federal aid to affected individuals in Fairfield, Middlesex, New London, New Haven and Windham counties in response to severe storms that struck on March 12-14 and March 29-31. The president did grant Governor Rell’s request for a “major disaster declaration” that allowed financial assistance to the state and municipal governments in Fairfield, Middlesex and New London counties.

Staff from the state Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) worked closely with 13 FEMA teams in the field to verify the damage data used in the appeal. Thousands of citizens affected by the storms and floods reported their damage to the statewide 2-1-1 Infoline at the Governor’s urging. The new data, verified and vetted in a five-step process, yielded nearly double the amount of damaged homes.

The Governor said the state's preliminary damage assessment identified a total of 1,315 homes in the five counties with damages totaling \$5,262,100. The new report verifies 2,498 homes with damages estimated at \$16.5 million. Also since the first survey:

- The number of residents reporting damage has almost tripled and the number of validated reports has doubled;
- Only 7 percent of residents filing damage reports reported they were fully insured for damages;
- A total of 1,593 residents now report their homes have mold, which could cause further damage