



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 27, 2011

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

Through:

Mr. Andrew Velasquez III
Regional Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region V
536 South Clark Street, Floor 6
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5208 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Minnesota as a result of severe storms and tornadoes beginning May 21, 2011, and ending May 22, 2011. The affected counties are Anoka and Hennepin.

The weather began to turn volatile the afternoon of Saturday, May 21. Severe thunderstorm warnings were issued for the Counties of McLeod, Meeker, Renville, Sibley, and Wright in the late afternoon, and for the Counties of Martin, Rock, and Pipestone in the evening hours. Tornado warnings were issued in the evening for Hennepin and Anoka Counties. Heavy rain and large hail (0.25-1.5 inches) was reported to the National Weather Service in the affected counties, including Hennepin. A tornado touched down in suburban Medina as severe storms sprang up across the region.

With little warning, a tornado developed just west of the metropolitan area shortly after 2:00 pm on Sunday, May 22. It moved quickly through densely populated neighborhoods in North Minneapolis, across the Mississippi River into Anoka County, and continued its north-northeasterly path. The National Weather Service Storm Survey Team rated the tornado as a strong end EF1 (100-110 mph) on the Enhanced Fujita scale.

The widest damage path was approximately one-half mile, with sporadic damage occurring in a path length of approximately 14.25 miles.

Two fatalities have been confirmed and 47 injuries reported. A local emergency was declared in the City of Minneapolis, in the County of Hennepin. Damage to homes, trees, public infrastructure, and businesses has been extensive. Power outages were widespread; Xcel Energy reported 27,000 customers without power at the height of the storm. Two days later, electricity had not been restored to 7,000 customers, and four days later, 2,760 customers were still without power.

Downed trees also made response difficult, with many gas line breaks and roadways blocked. When a 53-year-old man collapsed while using a chainsaw to help clear a tree from a road, paramedics resorted to travel by foot to reach him. Sadly, the man did not survive. In addition, a 59-year-old man was struck and killed by a tree branch that came through the window of his minivan.

Seven schools in North Minneapolis and all Fridley schools in Anoka County were closed Monday because of the storm. On Sunday, local officials imposed an overnight curfew for a four-square-mile section of North Minneapolis to prevent looting and keep streets clear for emergency crews. Nonresidents were barred from an "exclusion zone" in the hardest-hit neighborhoods. Off-ramps from Interstate 94 to North Minneapolis are closed until further notice.

The tornado went through economically depressed neighborhoods hardest-hit by foreclosures in recent years. Most of these neighborhoods experienced 18 to 40 foreclosures per 100 housing units over the last five years. Of the estimated 20,612 households in neighborhoods affected by the tornado, 7,718 live below the poverty line.

There is a high percentage of rental property, multiple-family homes, and subsidized (Section 8) housing in this high-poverty area (more than 80% in some areas). Many single family homes had large, extended families living together, who have limited alternatives for housing. Although landlords are required to have property insurance, most of the renters were not insured. Additional economic hardship will be borne by homeowners who have insurance with high deductibles.

Many vehicles were crushed by trees on the street or in collapsed garages, creating additional hardship for those needing to get to work, school, or medical appointments. Some without alternate shelter or wishing to protect property in uninhabitable structures are living in their cars or using them for storage. Especially in low income areas, only liability insurance was carried on many of the vehicles.

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The tornado crossed into Anoka County at the site of the Minneapolis Water Works facility, which provides water for the entire City of Minneapolis, and continued through industrial and residential areas to the Anoka County Airport (Janes Field) in the City of Blaine. The BNSF Railway had a number of railroad cars tipped on their sides and other damage estimated at \$28,000.

In response to the situation, I have taken appropriate action under Minnesota Statutes and in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act, and declared a State of Emergency on May 24, 2011, specifically directing activation of the Minnesota Emergency Operations Plan and the State Emergency Operations Center. On May 27, 2011, the Minnesota Executive Council extended the state of emergency 30 days. The State All-Hazard Mitigation Plan, which is a standard plan, was approved by FEMA on March 24, 2011.

On May 23, I requested joint federal-state preliminary damage assessments be conducted of the damaged areas. Preliminary assessments indicate that the most severe impacts were to private and public property, including, but not limited to, homes, businesses, water control facilities, electric utilities, and recreational facilities.

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 governments, and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary. I am specifically requesting Individual Assistance, including the Individuals and Households Program (IHP), Crisis Counseling, and Disaster Unemployment Assistance, and Small Business Administration disaster loans for the County of Hennepin; and Public Assistance (Categories A-G) for the Counties of Anoka and Hennepin. I am also requesting the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program statewide. I would like to reserve the right to request additional forms of assistance if necessary.

Preliminary estimates of the types and amounts of assistance needed under the Stafford Act are tabulated in Enclosures A and B. Estimated requirements for assistance from certain federal agencies under other statutory authorities are tabulated in Enclosure C.

The following information is furnished on the nature and amount of state and local resources that have been or will be used to alleviate the conditions of this disaster:

- The state emergency operations center (SEOC) was activated at Level III at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 22, to coordinate response efforts and continues at that activation level during business hours.
- Local emergency operations centers were activated by the City of Minneapolis and the County of Anoka. Due to power outages, Minneapolis was forced to use its backup EOC. The Anoka 911 Dispatch/Central Communications required additional staffing to handle the surge in calls. Hennepin County 911 processed 796 calls between 2:15 pm and 3:15 pm.
- Extra patrol staff was called in, and fire and law enforcement mutual aid was requested from neighboring cities to secure damaged areas in Anoka County; primarily in the City of Fridley. Neighborhoods were restricted while law enforcement and fire checked damaged homes and structures for people with injuries. Community Development and Inspections conducted structural damage surveys. Public Works responded to clear major debris from streets.
- Four air missions were flown by the Minnesota State Patrol and one by the Civil Air Patrol to assess damage areas.
- I issued Emergency Executive Order 11-16, activating the Minnesota National Guard. The Northeast Minneapolis Armory was opened to shelter displaced residents. The Minneapolis Police Department provided shuttle buses from its 4th Precinct. The City of Minneapolis, with the assistance of the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army, served 257 people the first night, including 70 families. Monday night 61 people slept at the shelter, 56 people stayed overnight; Tuesday, 40 people stayed overnight; and on Wednesday and Thursday, 42 people stayed overnight. Currently, 20-25 individuals remain on site during the day, with the number expected to double at night, with an even greater increase for the evening meal. Chaplains and mental health providers are available. Shelter residents include general population and those with special needs, including mobility issues. The Salvation Army arranged transportation for 12 individuals with medical needs.
- Twenty-eight families with children, representing 112 individuals in need of longer-term, temporary housing, are staying at the recently-renovated Drake Hotel in Downtown Minneapolis, where food is also available. A plan to accommodate individuals without children is being finalized.
- The Minneapolis Convention Center hosted a Victim Assistance Center on Tuesday, May 24, for an estimated 1,200 people. A combined Family Assistance and Disaster Recovery Center was established at Farview Park Community Center

in North Minneapolis on Wednesday, May 25, serving approximately 1,200 individuals the first day. The DRC is staffed by roughly 150 city, county, and park staff, with an equal number of volunteers. The Salvation Army has 16 social workers on duty through Friday and exhausted its financial resources at the DRC. Individuals have been referred to the Salvation Army Service Center for food and hygiene needs. Two, 30' x 30' tents were erected on Thursday, May 26, to bring more services outside and better serve the public. The Family Assistance Center processed 535 people between its opening and noon on Tuesday.

- The Minnesota Department of Human Services Office of Economic Opportunity has authorized additional commodity foods to be diverted to the disaster area through Second Harvest Heartland and Greater Lake Country Food Bank. An additional food distribution site has been set up in Trinity Tabernacle.
- The Salvation Army has provided financial assistance and basic necessities for 1,012 households, representing 4,238 individuals. More than \$121,000 has been provided in recovery assistance. This total includes more than \$70,000 in department store gift cards, clothing, and gas vouchers. In addition, 57,000 pounds of nonperishable food and hygiene supplies have been distributed. Meals and refreshments have been served from mobile kitchens to 3,800 people — more than 800 on Wednesday alone. Meal service will continue through Memorial Day, at an estimated cost of \$75 per hour per mobile kitchen.
- Public Works and Park Board crews worked to make streets passable and began storm debris pickup for property owners on Wednesday.
- The outpouring of support from affiliated and nonaffiliated volunteers has been overwhelming. Since Sunday, 3,000 volunteers have gone door-to-door to address midscale tree debris, felling trees, cutting brush, and moving debris to the curb for later pickup. Another 100 volunteers assisted by securing personal property.
- Cub Foods and its vendors fed 10,000 people throughout the week at an estimated cost of \$50,000. Faith-based and other voluntary agencies, mobile food cart vendors, and restaurants provided free food to several thousand people each day.

I certify that for this major disaster, the State and local governments will assume all applicable, non-federal share of costs, as required by the Stafford Act. Total non-federal expenditures are expected to exceed \$4 million, in accordance with the table in Enclosure D.

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I request direct federal assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property, including debris management assistance.

In accordance with 44 CFR § 206.208, the State of Minnesota agrees that it will, with respect to direct federal assistance:

- Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-ways necessary to accomplish the approved work;
- 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;
- Provide reimbursement to FEMA for the non-federal share of the cost of such work in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State Agreement; and
- Assist the performing federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

In addition, I anticipate the need for removal of debris, 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 and 5173, if debris removal is authorized, 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.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you declare a major disaster for Minnesota as outlined above and starting on May 21, 2011, I further request a 75% federal share for eligible recovery costs.

I have designated Kris A. Eide, Director of the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division, Minnesota Department of Public Safety, as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. She will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate damage assessments and may provide further

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information or justification on my behalf. You may reach Ms. Eide at 651-201-7404 or
Kris.Eide@state.mn.us.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Dayton". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Mark Dayton
Governor

Enclosures

cc: Ms. Kris A. Eide, Director, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division
Minnesota Department of Public Safety

ENCLOSURE A TO MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION REQUEST

**Estimated Requirements for Individual Assistance
under the Stafford Act**

County (List each requested county)	Assistance to Individuals and Households					Other Programs (Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Legal Services, and Crisis Counseling)
	Temporary Housing <i>(Indicate No.)</i>	Repairs	Replacement	Permanent Housing Construction	Other Needs Assistance	
Hennepin	\$248,451	\$1,182,802	\$234,408	n/a	\$263,203	tbd
	276	129	8		198	
TOTALS	\$248,451	\$1,182,802	\$234,408	n/a	\$263,203	tbd

** There has been substantial damage to homes and businesses (both physical losses and economic losses) in the affected area. Complete damage assessment information will be provided to the appropriate agencies as it becomes available.*

ENCLOSURE B TO MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION REQUEST

**Estimated Requirements for Public Assistance
under the Stafford Act**

State:
Minnesota

Population: 4,919,479 (2000 Census)

County	Category							TOTAL	Population (2000 Census)	Per-Capita Loss
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G			
Anoka	\$448,615	\$19,114	\$65,704	\$0	\$559,860	\$614,300	\$150,000	\$1,857,593	298,084	\$6.23
Hennepin	\$8,165,392	\$1,083,217	\$3,451,636	\$0	\$1,307,000	\$10,000	\$460,000	\$14,477,245	1,116,200	\$12.97
Total	\$8,614,007	\$1,102,331	\$3,517,340	\$0	\$1,866,860	\$624,300	\$610,000	\$16,334,838	4,919,479	\$3.32

**State agency costs are unknown at this time. Complete damage assessment information will be provided to the appropriate agencies as it becomes available.
Note: Estimates reflect total eligible costs before any cost sharing.*

ENCLOSURE C TO MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION REQUEST

Estimated Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs

County	SBA Home Loans	SBA Business Loans	FSA Loans	NRCS	FHWA	USACE	OTHER
Hennepin	\$4,449,622	\$1,899,000					
Totals	\$4,449,622	\$1,899,000					

**There has been substantial damage to homes and businesses (both physical losses and economic losses) in the affected area. Complete damage assessment information will be provided to the appropriate agencies as it becomes available.*

ENCLOSURE D TO MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION REQUEST

Governor's Certification

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. As stated in my letter, and based on information available at this time, tabulation of these estimated expenditures and obligations are as follows:

CATEGORY OF ASSISTANCE	AMOUNT	
	STATE	LOCAL
Individual Assistance:		
"Other Assistance" under the Individuals and Households Program	\$65,801	n/a
Other (specify)		
Total:	\$65,801	n/a
Public Assistance:		
Category A - Debris Removal	\$2,153,502	tbd
Category B - Emergency Protective Measures	\$275,583	tbd
Category C - Roads and Bridges	\$879,335	tbd
Category D - Water Control Facilities		tbd
Category E - Buildings and Equipment	\$466,715	tbd
Category F - Utilities	\$156,075	tbd
Category G - Other (Parks, Recreational Facilities, etc.)	\$152,500	tbd
Total:	\$4,083,710	tbd
Grand Total:	\$4,149,511	tbd

There has been substantial damage to homes and businesses (both physical losses and economic losses) in the affected area. Complete damage assessment information will be provided to the appropriate agencies as it becomes available.

ENCLOSURE E TO MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION REQUEST

Socio-Economic Profile

ECONOMIC INDICATOR	State of Minnesota	Anoka County	City of Fridley (Anoka)	Hennepin County	City of Minneapolis (Hennepin)
Population estimate	5,266,214 (2009)	331,582 (2009)		1,156,212 (2009)	
	5,167,101 (2006)		26,289 (2006)		372,833 (2006)
Population change	7% (4/2000-7/2009)	11.2% (4/2000-7/2009)		3.6% (4/2000-7/2009)	
	5% (4/ 2000 to 7/2006)		-4.2% (4/ 2000 to 7/2006)		-2.6% (4/ 2000 to 7/2006)
Population age 65 and older	12.7% (2009)	9.4% (2009)		11.2% (2009)	
	12.1% (2000)		12% (2000)		9.1% (2000)
Foreign born persons	5.3% (2000)	3.6% (2000)	7.2% (2000)	9.9% (2000)	14.5% (2000)
Language other than English spoken at home, age 5 and older	8.5% (2000)	5.7% (2000)	10.2% (2000)	12.8% (2000)	19.3% (2000)
Persons with a disability, age 5 and older	679,236 (2000)	37,119 (2000)	N/A	147,296 (2000)	N/A
Unemployment Rate*	6.6% (4/2011)	6.7% (4/2011)	N/A	5.1% (4/2011)	N/A

ECONOMIC INDICATOR	State of Minnesota	Anoka County	City of Fridley (Anoka)	Hennepin County	City of Minneapolis (Hennepin)
Median Household Income	\$57,318 (2008)	\$69,981 (2008)		\$62,275 (2008)	
	\$47,111 (1999)		48,372 (1999)		37,974 (1999)
Persons below poverty level	9.6% (2008)	5.8% (2008)		11.0% (2008)	
	7.9% (1999)		7.3% (1999)		16.9% (1999)

Source U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts. Data derived from Population Estimates, Census of Population and Housing, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, State and County Housing Unit Estimates, County Business Patterns, Nonemployer Statistics, Economic Census, Survey of Business Owners, Building Permits, Consolidated Federal Funds Report.

Last Revised: Thursday, 04-Nov-2010 12:51:54 EDT

*Source Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development