



HALEY BARBOUR
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DATE: May 7, 2010

**GOVERNOR BARBOUR REQUESTS FEDERAL DISASTER
DECLARATION FOR NORTH MISSISSIPPI COUNTIES**

Jackson, Mississippi – Governor Haley Barbour today requested President Obama declare six North Mississippi counties as a major disaster area, allowing residents and business owners access to federal government assistance programs.

“If my request is approved, we will utilize federal aid to help with recovery needs from the storms that hit North Mississippi on May 1 and May 2,” Governor Barbour said. “Together, we can restore our communities and help our neighbors recover from their losses.”

There were six deaths and multiple injuries attributed to this severe weather system. The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have been in the area since the storms hit analyzing the damage.

In Alcorn County, initial damage show two structures were destroyed, 85 had major damage, 10 had minor damage and one was affected. In Benton County, 22 structures were destroyed, eight had major damage, 14 had minor damage and 10 were affected. In Lafayette County, three structures were destroyed, 11 had major damage, 15 had minor damage and 17 were affected. In Tippah County, six were destroyed, 13 had major damage, 25 had minor damage and 18 were affected. In Tishomingo County, three structures had major damage, one had minor damage and four were affected.

Governor Barbour’s request asks for Public Assistance for Alcorn, Benton, Prentiss, Tippah and Tishomingo counties. Local and state governments would be able to use federal funds to help pay for the cost of cleanup and emergency measures.

The request includes Individual Assistance for Alcorn, Benton, Lafayette, Tippah and Tishomingo counties, which had enough damage to meet the federal eligibility guidelines for the program. The Individual Assistance Program, including the Individuals and Households Program, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Crisis Counseling, Disaster Legal Services, the Disaster Food Stamp Program, and Small Business Administration disaster loans.