



# Disaster News

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## **STATE AND FEMA SIGN AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR THE JANUARY STORM, SLIDE AND FLOOD DAMAGE**

OLYMPIA – Gov. Chris Gregoire and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have signed an agreement that forms a state-federal partnership to administer disaster assistance for the January storm, slide and flood damage.

“The agreement forms the basis to provide disaster aid payments to eligible individuals,” said Gov. Gregoire. “It will ensure that federal and state disaster aid will help our people start to rebuild from last month’s storms, slides and flooding.”

Gov. Gregoire requested a federal disaster declaration on Jan. 21 after surveys found an estimated 497 residences that were destroyed or suffered major damage and another 2,340 residences that needed repairs. President Obama approved a federal disaster declaration Jan. 30 for individual assistance disaster aid in eight counties.

“The agreement formalizes the state-federal partnership that has operated for several weeks to respond to and recover from the widespread January storms, slides and flooding,” said Dennis Hunsinger, acting FEMA 10 administrator.

Hunsinger said the agreement “establishes a funding platform that supports FEMA’s housing assistance grants and the state/federal Other Needs Assistance for personal property losses from Jan. 6-16.”

Since Jan. 30, FEMA already has paid more than \$675,000 in housing grants to 226 Washington disaster applicants.

*FEMA leads and supports the nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation to reduce the loss of life and property and protect the nation from all hazards including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.*

*FEMA’s temporary housing assistance and grants for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA loan officers to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.*