

July 1, 2011

The Governor's request for a Major Disaster Declaration submitted on April 16, 2011 has been approved by President Obama. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today, that federal disaster aid has been made available for 45 Texas counties to supplement the State of Texas and local response efforts in fighting wildland fires from April 6 to May 3.

Originally denied by FEMA on May 3, 2011 for the originally requested 252 Texas Counties, the State of Texas submitted an appeal on May 26, 2011 in support of the declaration along with completing a joint damage assessment with FEMA which supported 90 counties.

Federal funding will be made available to the State of Texas and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit (PNP) organizations on a cost-sharing basis in the counties of: Andrews, Archer, Armstrong, Bailey, Baylor, Brewster, Callahan, Carson, Castro, Clay, Coleman, Concho, Cottle, Crockett, Dawson, Duval, Eastland, Garza, Glasscock, Hall, Hemphill, Hockley, Irion, Kent, King, Lynn, Martin, Mason, Mitchell, Moore, Motley, Pecos, Presidio, Scurry, Stephens, Sterling, Sutton, Terrell, Terry, Throckmorton, Tom Green, Trinity, Tyler, Val Verde, and Young Counties for emergency protective measures (Category B).

The State intends to work with FEMA and seek additional county designations based on further assessments.

Examples of eligible costs that could be reimbursed include but are not limited to:

- Costs for equipment and supplies (less insurance)
- Costs for jurisdictional emergency response
- Costs for personal comfort and safety items for firefighters
- Costs for field camps and meals in lieu of per diem
- Costs for temporary repair of damage caused by firefighting activities
- Citizen evacuation and sheltering

This declaration will especially help local jurisdictions where wildland fires occurred and jurisdictions which were not declared by FEMA for a Fire Management Assistance Grant Program.

In addition to the approved counties, Direct Federal Assistance, under the Public Assistance program was approved to allow for the federal government to bear 75% cost-sharing in utilization of federal assets.

Application procedures for state and local governments will be explained at a series of federal/state applicant briefings with locations to be announced in the affected areas by State officials.