

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 8, 2008

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The President today declared a major disaster exists in the State of Nevada and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe winter storms and flooding beginning on January 5, 2008, and continuing.

The President's action makes Federal funding available to affected individuals in Lyon County.

Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

Federal funding also is available to State and eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the severe winter storms and flooding in Lyon County.

Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

R. David Paulison, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security, named Michael L. Karl as the Federal Coordinating Officer for Federal recovery operations in the affected area.

FEMA said additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the State and warranted by the results of further damage assessments.

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FEMA said that residents and business owners who sustained losses in the designated counties can begin applying for assistance tomorrow by registering online at ~~<http://www.fema.gov/>~~ <http://www.fema.gov> or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA(3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (local time)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: FEMA (202) 646-4600