



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

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GOVERNOR DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR ATLANTIC, CAPE MAY, MONMOUTH AND OCEAN COUNTIES

In the wake of heavy rains, flooding and destructive tides that have plagued coastal New Jersey over the last three days, Gov. Christie Whitman today declared a State of Emergency for Atlantic, Cape May, Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

"Residents in the affected areas can be assured that we are making every effort to provide them with the information and assistance they need to help them recover and rebuild in the wake of this storm," said Gov. Whitman. "Once preliminary damage assessments have been completed, we plan to apply for the maximum amount of federal assistance available to help residents and businesses recover and to restore and preserve New Jersey's beaches."

The establishment of a State of Emergency in all four counties will enable state officials to request a joint damage assessment with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for those areas. This joint assessment will allow the state to better determine eligibility for federal aid.

Gov. Whitman earlier today was joined by Rep. Frank LoBiondo (R-New Jersey) and shore-area legislators for an aerial tour of the coastal damage. She viewed damages in all four counties, stopping at the Cape May County Airport in Erma and the Sandy Hook Coast Guard Station in Sandy Hook.

State Emergency Management officials have been working with local officials and law enforcement to ensure the safety and security of residents, roadways and structures in the affected areas. Teams from the state Department of Environmental Protection were in the field today assessing beach erosion and breaching of dunes in the affected areas.

Attached is a copy of the Executive Order which establishes the State of Emergency.

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