

# 17 CURRENT OPEN DISASTERS

## **STATE DECLARATIONS**

### **PCA 99006; Statewide Drought Emergency**

**Declared: June 23, 1999**

Lack of precipitation had significantly reduced surface and ground water supplies and stream flows. The drought continues to endanger crops, property and livestock of the citizens of Arizona. This proclamation has been extended until further notice, as this is still a threatening situation.

### **PCA 20101; Sedona Flash Flood Emergency**

**Declared: September 15, 2009**

On September 15, 2009, the Governor declared a state of emergency for an isolated severe storm over the central portion of the City of Sedona which produced approximately 2.5 inches of heavy rainfall within a 45 minute period. The heavy rains resulted in significant flooding in Soldier's Wash and several areas of the City which caused extreme peril to public health and safety. Several houses and businesses were flooded and left with significant damage due to debris and silt deposits. The most significant public infrastructure impacts were removal of debris deposited by the flood waters as well as damages sustained to roads and drainage channels. The City of Sedona has completed all work to repair the damaged roads and channels.

### **PCA 11002; Hopi Tribe Flood Emergency**

**Declared: July 30, 2010**

On July 26, 2010, a severe storm over a widespread area of the Hopi Tribe produced approximately 3 inches of heavy rainfall. The heavy rains resulted in an unusually strong flood event causing extreme peril to public health and safety. On July 27, 2010 the Hopi Tribe declared a state of emergency for this event. These water flows caused extensive damages to both private property and public infrastructure, including water and sewer lines that provide essential life services to the residents of the Hopi Tribe.

The Hopi Tribe lies within the County borders of Navajo and Coconino Counties. Because of the Post-Schultz Fire Flooding incident in Coconino County, the Hopi Tribe has reached out to county emergency management office in Navajo

County for assistance. Navajo County officials have been supportive to the Hopi Tribe and signed a declaration of emergency on July 28, 2010 stating that this flooding event has created a state of emergency for the Hopi Tribe and that the County will assist with their recovery efforts.

**PCA 11003; Monsoon 2010 Flooding Emergency  
Declared: August 4, 2010**

On July 19, 2010, through July 29, 2010, a series of potent monsoon thunderstorms causing high winds and flash floods damaged many locations in southeastern Arizona. The heavy rains resulted in unusually strong flooding events and caused extreme peril to public health and safety in two primary areas: Wards Canyon in Greenlee County and the Nogales Wash in Santa Cruz County. On July 29, 2010 both the Town of Clifton and Greenlee County declared a state of emergency for this event, followed on July 30, 2010 by Santa Cruz County, stating that this monsoon event has created a situation above and beyond their capabilities and they are requesting assistance from the State. These water flows caused extensive damages to public infrastructure and threatened resources that provide essential life services to Greenlee and Santa Cruz residents, primarily roads and sewer lines.

**PCA 11004; Coconino County Twister  
Declaration: October 8, 2010**

On October 6, 2010 a series of tornados impacted the communities of Bellemont, Parks and Fort Valley as well as nearby rural areas within Coconino County. The impact of these tornados caused minor injuries to citizens, spread debris creating public safety challenges, damaged numerous structures and rendered utility systems inoperable in areas.

Repairs to damaged homes were covered under the individual homeowner's insurance. Coconino County sustained minor damages to roads, the City of Page Airport received damage due to lightning strikes and there were damages to buildings, perimeter road and fence line at Camp Navajo. The Page Airport identified a secondary funding source to support the repairs to the airstrip. Some of the damages sustained at Camp Navajo's facility are being covered by ADOA Risk Management and any eligible items not covered by Risk Management are being evaluated by ADEM for possible reimbursement under this declaration.

**PCA 73001; December 2010 Flooding  
Declaration: January 27, 2011**

Between December 18, 2010 and December 22, 2010, a series of heavy rainstorms caused flash floods that damaged several areas in northwestern Arizona. The heavy rains resulted in significant flooding causing extreme peril

to public health and safety to residents of the Beaver Dam/Littlefield area and Town of Colorado City in Mohave County.

An abnormally high flow of water was measured in a tributary of the Virgin River in Beaver Dam/Littlefield, and created considerable damage to both public and private properties, including homes. Public infrastructure damage included the destruction of a lift station that caused a release of untreated sewage into the Virgin River until emergency protective measures could be taken to stem the flow. Sewer service was also disrupted to citizens in the area.

Additionally, several all-weather crossings of the Short Creek in Colorado City received damage to their roads that provide critical services and access to residents. The damage left only one main route of ingress and egress, as the affected roads were closed for an indeterminate amount of time due to the extent of the damage.

**PCA 73002; Wallow Fire  
Declaration: June 6, 2011**

The Wallow Fire began in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest in Greenlee County on May 29, 2011. The fire burned substantial portions of Apache and Greenlee Counties, as well as the San Carlos Apache and White Mountain Apache Tribal lands. The fire burned over 540,000+ acres, making it the largest fire in Arizona's history.

Arizona State Forestry Division received a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) from FEMA on June 2, 2011. This grant will support the reimbursement of costs associated with suppression of the fire being directed by the Incident Management Team and emergency protective measures and response efforts conducted by agencies at the direction of Apache County. Funding allocated under this disaster declaration is to support costs not covered by the FMAG and/or for recovery support following suppression of the fire.

**PCA 73003; Horseshoe 2 & Monument Fires  
Declared: June 17, 2011**

These two separate wildfires burned portions of Cochise County: the Horseshoe Two Fire broke out in the Chiricahua Mountains on May 8, 2011; the Monument Fire began in the Coronado National Memorial/Coronado National Forest on June 12, 2011. The Horseshoe Fire burned over 222,954 acres; the Monument Fire burned over 30,526+ acres.

Arizona State Forestry Division received a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) from FEMA for the Horseshoe 2 fire on May 9, 2011 and for the

Monument Fire on June 12, 2011. These grants will support the reimbursement of costs associated with suppression of the fire being directed by the Incident Management Team and emergency protective measures and response efforts conducted by agencies at the direction of Cochise County. Funding allocated under this disaster declaration is to support costs not covered by the FMAGs and/or for recovery support following suppression of the fires.

**PCA 73004; Tombstone Waterline Flooding  
Declared: August 17, 2011**

Between June 12<sup>th</sup> and July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011, a series of seasonal monsoon rains passed over the Huachuca Mountains and areas that were severely burned by the Monument Fire. The heavy rains resulted in significant flooding, erosion, and mud slides which caused significant damage to the primary source of water for the citizens of the City of Tombstone. The debris and heavy sediment flow damaged several areas of the critical aqueduct and transmission system that conveys between 50 and 80 percent of the City's ongoing water needs. The City of Tombstone's Mayor and Common Council declared a State of Emergency for their city for the flooding and condition of critical infrastructure, and a Governor's Declaration was issued on August 17, 2011.

**PCA 73005; Northern Greenlee County Flooding  
Declared: September 9, 2011**

On August 24, 2011, a powerful seasonal monsoon rain passed over areas in northern Greenlee County that were severely burned by the Wallow Fire. The heavy rains resulted in significant flooding, erosion, and mud slides which caused significant damage to the primary route of ingress and egress to several residences in the area. The debris and heavy sediment flow damaged several portions of the Blue River Road and severely restricted accessibility for residents who rely on this route for daily activities, as well as emergency personnel. The damage also included erosion of several portions of the road and shoulder, with the damage worsening after each subsequent storm. The Greenlee County Board of Supervisors declared a State of Emergency for their County for the flooding and condition of critical infrastructure, and a Governor's Declaration was issued on September 9, 2011.

**PCA 73006; Coconino County Campbell Avenue Flooding  
Declared: September 30, 2011**

On September 13, 2011, a powerful seasonal monsoon rain passed over areas in Coconino County that were severely burned by the Schultz Fire for a second consecutive year. The heavy rains resulted in significant flooding and debris flow which caused significant damage to several major roads in the Timberline, Hutchison Acres and Wupatki Trails areas. The debris and heavy sediment flow

also damaged several portions of the Lower Campbell Avenue, as well as other areas that were impacted during a summer 2010 declared emergency and are subject to repeated damage from floods off the Schultz Fire burn areas. The flooding threatened lives in the area and the County Sheriff's office was mobilized to close impacted roads and mobilize Search and Rescue to be on standby. The Coconino County Board of Supervisors Declared a State of Emergency for their County for the flooding and condition of critical infrastructure, and a Governor's Declaration was issued on September 30, 2011.

## **STATE/FEDERAL DECLARATIONS (ADEM/FEMA)**

### **PCA 25004; Northern Arizona Winter Storm**

**Declared: December 29, 2004**

**FEMA-1581-DR-AZ**

**Federal Declaration: February 17, 2005**

Arizona was impacted by a series of strong winter storms December 28, 2004 – January 12, 2005. Large amounts of rain and record levels of snow received during the initial storm were followed by January storms that tapped into warm, moist Pacific air. Rapid snow melt occurred as warm rains fell on snow at mid-level elevations, which, along with the rain falling on already saturated ground resulted in widespread flooding throughout the northern and central parts of the state. Arizona residents suffered both loss of life and property damage.

On December 29, 2005 the Governor declared a state of emergency for the Northern Arizona Winter Storm Emergency for Coconino County followed by 3 amendments on December 30, 2004 to include Yavapai County, on January 4, 2005 to include Gila and Navajo Counties and on January 11, 2005 to include Apache, Maricopa and Mohave Counties.

On February 17, 2005, the President declared a Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA-1581-DR-AZ) for Public Assistance and Mitigation Programs for Coconino, Gila, Mohave, Navajo and Yavapai Counties and the Hopi and Navajo Nations. The Tribal Governments work directly with DHS/FEMA and provide their own non-federal cost share. The Small Business Administration (SBA) declared an emergency for Mohave, Coconino, La Paz and Yavapai Counties, making low interest loans available to homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes and private, non-profit organizations whose property was damaged or destroyed by the storms.

**PCA 25005; February 2005 Winter Storm and Flood  
Declared: February 16, 2005  
FEMA-1586-DR-AZ  
Federal Declaration: April 14, 2005**

On February 16, 2005 the Governor declared a state of emergency due to the February 2005 Winter Storms and Flooding throughout central and eastern Arizona. Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Pinal and Yavapai Counties and the Town of Wickenburg (Maricopa County) all declared and were included in the Governor's declaration. On March 8, 2005, the declaration was amended to include all of Maricopa County and Mohave County.

On April 14, 2005 the President declared a Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA-1586-DR-AZ) for Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs for the counties of Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Mohave, Pinal and Yavapai; the Havasupai Tribe, the Hopi Tribe, the San Carlos Apache Tribe; and the portion of the Navajo Tribal Nation within the State of Arizona. The Tribal Governments work directly with DHS/FEMA and provide their own non-federal cost share. Maricopa County was not included in the Federal declaration.

**PCA 26003; Operation Good Neighbor  
Declared: September 3, 2005  
FEMA-3241-EM-AZ  
Federal Declaration: September 12, 2005**

On September 3, 2005, the Governor declared a state of emergency in support of Hurricane Katrina, Arizona's Operation Good Neighbor. The Governor was requested by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist with the national state of emergency due to the catastrophic consequences of Hurricane Katrina. The state accepted this mission and committed to welcoming evacuees with open arms and providing them with food, shelter, transportation, health and medical services, schools for the children, job training, jobs and other assistance with their short and long term needs. The first evacuees arrived in Arizona on September 4, 2005.

On September 12, 2005, the President declared an Emergency Declaration (FEMA-3241-EM-AZ) for the State of Arizona, triggering the release of Federal funds to help communities respond to Hurricane Katrina. FEMA has authorized the State of Arizona to provide emergency protective measures, including direct Federal assistance, under the Public Assistance program at 100 percent Federal funding.

**PCA 27001; Summer 2006 Monsoons and Flooding Emergency**  
**Declared: August 8, 2006**  
**FEMA-1660-DR-AZ**  
**Federal Declaration: September 7, 2006**

On August 8, 2006, the Governor declared a state of emergency for a series of monsoon thunderstorms, spawning hail, damaging winds and flash floods throughout southeastern Arizona, specifically Pinal and Pima Counties from July 25 - August 4, 2006. Areas of the Santa Cruz, San Pedro and Gila watersheds exceeded their 1993 flood stages in portions of Pinal, Pima, Cochise, Graham and Gila Counties. On September 13, 2006, the Governor amended the declaration to include Gila, Graham, Greenlee and Navajo Counties. Five Tribal Governments were also heavily impacted by the emergency: the Gila River Indian Community, the Hopi Tribe, the Navajo Nation, the San Carlos Apache Tribe and the Tohono O'Odham Nation.

On September 7, 2006, the President declared a Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA-1660-DR-AZ) by approving Public Assistance for those counties and tribal nations that met FEMA's per capita impact criteria, which were: Pinal and Pima Counties, the Gila River Indian Community within Pinal County and the Tohono O'Odham Nation within Pima and Pinal Counties. His declaration was amended on September 29, 2006 to include Gila, Graham, Greenlee and Navajo Counties, the tribal areas of the Hopi Tribe within Navajo County, the Navajo Nation within Navajo County and the San Carlos Apache Tribe within Gila, Graham and Pinal Counties. On November 9, 2006, the declaration was amended once more to include the Navajo Nation within Apache and Coconino Counties. The President also approved Arizona's request for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The portion of this program that is made available to all counties and political subdivisions statewide is administered by ADEM. This program is also made available to the Tribal Nations designated under this emergency and they will each administer their program with direct Federal assistance from FEMA.

**PCA 20102; January 2010 Winter Storm Emergency**  
**Declared: January 21, 2010**  
**FEMA-1888-DR-AZ**  
**Federal Declaration: March 18, 2010**

On January 21, 2010 the Governor declared an emergency for significant cumulative precipitation coupled with high winds and heavy snow in areas across Arizona from January 18 – 22, 2010. This storm system led to record levels of snowfall and significant flooding posing an extreme danger to public health and safety. On February 11, 2010 an amended declaration was signed to include additional counties. Counties declared were Apache, Coconino, Gila,

Greenlee, La Paz, Maricopa, Mohave, Navajo, Pima, Pinal and Yavapai as well as the City of Yuma.

On January 24, 2010 the Governor submitted a request to the President for an Emergency Declaration in support of life sustaining efforts to the citizens of the Hopi Tribe and Navajo Nations. This was a complex incident involving two tribes, three counties and a very large geographical area. President Obama declared an emergency on January 24, 2010 and authorized Federal relief and recovery assistance for the affected area.

The intensity of this situation overwhelmed local and county emergency responders. The Governor submitted a request for Major Disaster Declaration on February 16, 2010, and the President responded on March 18, 2010 by approving Public Assistance for those counties and tribal nations that met FEMA's per capita impact criteria, which were: Apache, Coconino, Gila, Greenlee, La Paz, Mohave, Navajo and Yavapai Counties and the Gila River Indian Community, Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, San Carlos Apache, Tohono O'odham Nation and White Mountain Apache Tribe. The President also approved Arizona's request for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The portion of this program that is made available to all counties and political subdivisions statewide is administered by ADEM. This program is also made available to the Tribal Nations designated under this emergency and they will each administer their program with direct Federal assistance from FEMA.

The Governor's request for Individual Assistance Program and Snow Assistance were denied by FEMA as was our final appeal.

**PCA 11001- Schultz Fire Post-Fire Flooding Emergency**

**Declared: July 21, 2010**

**Presidential Declaration FEMA-1940-DR-AZ: October 4, 2010**

**Amended: November 22, 2010**

On July 20, 2010 an early afternoon rainfall of about 1.6" to 2" within a 30 minute timeframe fell on the steep terrain and intense burn area of the Schultz Fire. This rain caused flash flooding of debris, ash, mud and rain flow approximately 400' wide x 2' deep from the watershed into the impacted communities of Timberline, Doney Park and Wupatki in the Flagstaff area. As a direct result of this flash flooding, local emergency personnel conducted search and rescue operations. These operations freed stranded residents and searched for a 12 year old child swept away by the flows. The child was found deceased.

Excessive response costs were incurred due to the prolonged incident period of July 20 – August 7, 2010. Physical impacts to infrastructure include debris obstructing roadways, exposed and damaged utilities (power, telephone/data, waterline) as well as significant damage to roads.

The President declared a major disaster for Coconino County, activating the Public Assistance Program and making available the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to political subdivisions statewide. Both of these programs are to be administered by the Arizona Division of Emergency Management.

On November 22, 2010, the President amended this declaration to include the Hopi Tribe. FEMA is providing the Hopi Tribe with support for the Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs. As a sovereign nation the Hopi Tribe is working directly with DHS/FEMA and will provide for their non-federal cost share.

### **\*\*Havasupai Flash Flooding**

#### **Presidential Declaration FEMA-1950-DR-AZ: December 21, 2010**

Rainfall and flooding began on October 3, 2010 and continued through October 6, 2010 impacting the concentrated area of Havasu Canyon. The Havasupai Indian Reservation is located in a very unique and isolated geographic region, deep within an inner gorge of the Grand Canyon. The reservation is surrounded by layers of cliffs, towering more than half a mile above the canyon bottom. The 1000' deep canyon encompasses a portion of the trail to and from the entire village of Supai and is a floodplain for Havasu Creek. The creek drains the canyon and surrounding highlands.

The heavy rains resulted in flash flooding in Cataract Creek causing three (3) major surges of water into Supai Canyon. This flash flooding resulted in the evacuation of 143 tourists out of the Canyon; no human lives were lost; however three (3) pack horses were swept away in the flood.

This storm severely damaged this community and public infrastructure that supports the Havasupai Tribe's sole source of income: tourism. Infrastructure impacts include bridges, campgrounds and trails which pose a threat to the health and safety of the Tribal members and local residents. The main trail leading into Supai Village is not passable and the severe damage to the trails and campgrounds also prevents mail delivery and supplies from entering into the village and threatens the financial livelihood of the Tribe. This impact has caused the indefinite closure of Havasu Canyon to tourism. Loss of work and distance to other employment options makes it near impossible to sustain revenue income for livelihood of the Tribal members.

\*\*The President declared a major disaster for the Havasupai Tribe. FEMA is providing the Havasupai Tribe with support for the Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs. As a sovereign nation the Havasupai Tribe is working directly with DHS/FEMA and will provide for their non-federal cost share; thus, this disaster is not included in the State Open Disaster total.