

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

The President has declared a major disaster for the State of Oklahoma as a result of severe storms and tornadoes beginning on March 26, which caused extensive public, private, and agricultural damage. The President's action will permit the use of Federal funds in relief and recovery efforts in designated areas of the State.

Federal assistance from the President's Disaster Relief Fund will consist primarily of temporary housing, disaster unemployment assistance payments to those who lost their jobs as a result of the severe storms and tornadoes, debris removal, and the repair or restoration of damaged or destroyed streets, roads, bridges, and public facilities and utilities. Low-interest rate disaster loans will be made available by the Small Business Administration, and emergency loan assistance will be made available by the Farmers Home Administration.

Federal relief activities in Oklahoma will be coordinated by the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, Department of Housing and Urban Development, under the direction of Administrator Thomas P. Dunne. Mr. Dunne will designate the specific areas within the State eligible for Federal assistance, based upon Federal and State damage assessments.

Mr. Joe D. Winkle, Regional Director of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, HUD Region VI, will be designated as the Federal Coordinating Officer to work with the State in providing Federal disaster assistance under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974, Public Law 93-288.

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