

FEDERAL AGENCY ACTIVITIES  
UNDER MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION  
IDAHO-505-DR

A declaration of a major disaster by the President brings a wide range of Federal assistance programs to bear on the stricken area. Assistance which is being made available and activities currently underway as a result of the recent declaration for the State of Idaho are described below:

Assistance to Individuals

Temporary housing is being made available to disaster victims whose homes have been destroyed or made uninhabitable. These accommodations are rent-free for up to one year. The Department of Housing and Urban Development currently has seven survey teams in the disaster area to match housing needs with available resources.

The Department of Labor may provide disaster unemployment assistance for those persons not covered under regular State unemployment insurance programs, as well as job placement assistance for those unemployed as the result of a major disaster.

The Small Business Administration and the Farmers Home Administration of the Department of Agriculture are accepting applications for disaster loans from individuals, businesses and farmers for the refinancing, repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of damaged real and personal property not fully covered by insurance.

Representatives of the Social Security Administration are counseling disaster victims on benefits available under this program.

The Internal Revenue Service is processing claims for casualty losses and providing tax advice to disaster victims.

Legal services are being provided to low-income families and individuals.

The Soil Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Reclamation are currently engaged in operations to clear debris from and make emergency repairs to irrigation facilities with the object of reopening channels as rapidly as possible to prevent potential crop losses.

#### Assistance to Governments

The Corps of Engineers is currently engaged in the removal of debris from public lands and streams and from private property where it is found to be a health or safety hazard.

The Federal Highway Administration is engaged in the emergency protection and permanent repair of roads, streets and bridges not on the Federal aid system.

Grant funds will be available for the repair or replacement of State and local government facilities which were damaged or destroyed by the disaster, including:

- public buildings and related equipment
- public utilities
- recreational facilities and parks.

Grants are also available for repair or replacement of private nonprofit educational, utility, emergency, medical, and custodial care facilities.

#### Other Federal Agency Involvement

The Food and Drug Administration is conducting surveillance and testing of food which might have been affected by flood waters.

The U.S. Public Health Service and the Veterinary Service of the Department of Agriculture are assisting State officials in monitoring the disposal of dead animals and investigating any potential health hazards in the disaster area.

The General Services Administration is engaged in providing emergency communications services and general logistical support to other Government agencies.

The Economic Development Administration of the Department of Commerce is currently discussing with local officials the grant programs which are available to assist industry in the area.

All of the above activities are being carried out under the general coordination of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Mr. William H. Mayer, FDAA's Region X Director, has been named Federal Coordinating Officer.