

AUGUST 2 , 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President today declared a major disaster for the State of Colorado because of damage caused by heavy rains, beginning about July 31, 1976, which sent flood waters cascading down the Big Thompson and Cache le Poudre Rivers in north central Colorado. The flood waters triggered mudslides and landslides, causing a heavy loss of life and extensive damage to public and private property. 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 of temporary housing for flood victims, disaster unemployment assistance payments to those who lost their jobs as a result of the flooding, 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 Colorado 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. Donald G. Eddy, Regional Director of the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration, Region VIII, 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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NOTE:
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM FDAA: (202) 634-6666.