



## Minnesota Department of Transportation

District 6, Rochester/Owatonna  
2900 48<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Rochester, MN 55901-5848

Office: 507-286-7500  
[www.mndot.gov](http://www.mndot.gov)

# News Release

July 11, 2013

For Immediate Release

Contact: Kristin KammueLLer  
507-286-7684; 507-251-2749  
[Kristin.KammueLLer@state.mn.us](mailto:Kristin.KammueLLer@state.mn.us)

## Highway 44 detour resumes in Fillmore and Houston counties

ROCHESTER, Minn. – The detour for the Highway 44 reconstruction project in Spring Grove is back in place, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Motorists will once again be detoured to Highway 76, Highway 16 and Highway 43.

The detour had been temporarily lifted due to the Highway 43 bridge damage that occurred during the June 23 flooding.

Motorists should continue to follow the posted detour on Highway 43 through July as crews finish repair work near Choice.

MnDOT urges motorists to always drive with caution, slow down in work zones and never enter a road blocked with barriers or cones.

For Minnesota statewide travel information, visit [www.511mn.org](http://www.511mn.org), call 5-1-1 or log on to [www.mndot.gov](http://www.mndot.gov).

# # #



GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR EMERGENCY STORM RELIEF  
OCCURRING ON JUNE 21, 2013

**FOR THE FOLLOWING MINNESOTA COUNTIES: Benton, Dakota, Faribault, Fillmore, Hennepin, Houston, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac Qui Parle, Lyon, McLeod, Sherburne, Sibley, Stearns, Swift, Todd, Wilkin, and Wright**

MN Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Larry Shellito has made a determination to assist those Veterans affected by the storm on June 21, 2013, in the form of an Emergency Storm Relief grant not to exceed \$1,000.00. Application must be made by September 30, 2013. See below for additional information.

For assistance with this process, veterans should contact Jason Marquardt, Fillmore County Veteran Services Officer at 902 Houston Street NW, Preston; [jmarquardt@co.fillmore.mn.us](mailto:jmarquardt@co.fillmore.mn.us) or at 507.765.4937.

• **EMERGENCY STORM RELIEF - ALLOWABLE ITEMS FOR REIMBURSEMENT**

- BUILDING MATERIALS (STORM/HIGH WIND RELATED)
- CLEANING SUPPLIES
- FOOD-Maximum Reimbursement \$500.00 with receipts dated between 6/21/2013 and 6/28/2013
- RENTAL COSTS FOR GENERATORS, WATER PUMPS, SUMP PUMPS, BOB CATS, BACKHOES, CHAIN SAWS ETC....
- SHELTER COSTS IF DISPLACED
- SHEET ROCK
- FLOORING (CARPET, HARDWOOD, TILE)

• **June 21, 2013 Emergency Storm Relief Checklist - TO BE SUBMITTED WITH MDVA-1B application**

The following items must be provided for timely consideration and processing of your request.

- ☐ Copy of DD-214 or Separation papers (**active** military service)

- ☐ Proof of residency (MN Driver's license/ID Card)
- ☐ Death certificate if application is by surviving spouse
- ☐ Copies of receipts dated no earlier than **June 21, 2013**.
- ☐ Copy of Mortgage Statement or Lease verifying affected residence if different from the address on your Minnesota I.D.

***Receipts for allowable expenditures must be dated no earlier than June 21, 2013, and no later than September 30, 2013. Applications with copies of receipts MUST be postmarked by September 30, 2013. Applications received after this date will be denied.***

Veterans must certify the following on the application:

***"My property was affected by the Storm/High Winds in one of the following counties (Benton, Dakota, Faribault, Fillmore, Hennepin, Houston, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac Qui Parle, Lyon, McLeod, Sherburne, Sibley, Stearns, Swift, Todd, Wilkin, Wright) and the assistance that I will be reimbursed for was not used to buy tobacco, alcohol, firearms, weapons, or ammunition. I attest to the fact that I did not receive payment through my personal homeowner's/renter's insurance for the same items I am receiving reimbursement from The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs."***

- **EMERGENCY STORM RELIEF – PAYMENT INFORMATION**

1. The department staff will date stamp and log each completed application.
2. We will process a reimbursement for up to \$1000.00 for Veterans, their families and surviving spouses.
3. If the application only has \$225.00 in receipts, we will only reimburse \$225.00.

All receipts must be provided with the application for a one-time payment. Multiple submissions with additional receipts will not be accepted.

Interested veterans should contact Jason Marquardt, Fillmore County Veteran Services Officer at 902 Houston Street NW, Preston; [jmarquardt@co.fillmore.mn.us](mailto:jmarquardt@co.fillmore.mn.us) or at 507.765.4937 to complete these applications.

## PRESS RELEASE

DATE: July 11, 2013  
CONTACT: Karen Brown, Fillmore County Coordinator and Public Information Officer  
TELEPHONE: 507.765.4566  
RE: Request for immediate publication

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and MN Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) officials visited Fillmore County on Wednesday, July 10, 2013. At the end of the day, they agreed that preliminary public infrastructure damage estimates of \$2.6 million by local officials were very close to the FEMA estimates. Federal and State representatives met with city, township and county officials to obtain additional information to support a multi-county request for federal assistance for flood damage from the storm event that began Thursday, June 20, 2013. Representatives from United States Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken offices were also present to support a possible request to MN Governor Mark Dayton to petition President Obama for a disaster declaration for MN counties.

Kevin Beck, Fillmore County Emergency Manager, had previously contacted local government officials to assemble documentation needed for this meeting. Wednesday's meeting presented an opportunity for local officials to meet with FEMA officials on an individual basis to conduct preliminary verification of flood damage estimates. City, township and county officials provided contractor estimates, pictures of damaged property and anecdotal information about the impact of the flooding on their respective communities.

Wayne Lamoreaux, HSEM Engineering Specialist, told those present that HSEM and FEMA officials are doing similar damage assessments in sixteen (16) other counties in Minnesota to determine whether Minnesota will be eligible for a major disaster declaration. Lamoreaux also said that HSEM and FEMA agencies are committed to helping communities receive all federal and state funding for which they are eligible.

In response to questions about timelines, Lamoreaux said that any estimated timeline is contingent on obtaining the Presidential declaration and also on FEMA staff availability. Citing historical references to timelines for other recent national disasters, he estimated that if both local and Minnesota thresholds are met and a Presidential declaration is made that FEMA crews could be back in the area near the end of July or early August.

Later in the day, FEMA and HSEM representatives were given a tour of the flood damaged roads, bridges and other damaged public property in Fillmore County. Officials viewed road damage and washed out bridges in Carrolton, Holt and Norway townships as well as damages in both the cities of Mabel and Canton. Other flood damaged sites visited included the bridge on MN Highway #43 in Choice.

END



## NEWS ADVISORY

Bruce Gordon, Director of Communications

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 8, 2013

**CONTACT:**

Julie Anderson 651-216-0837

### STATE, FEDERAL AND LOCAL OFFICIALS TO ASSESS DAMAGE FROM JUNE STORMS

**WHAT:** Officials from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM), along with FEMA and local officials, will assess damage to public infrastructure and certain not-for-profit organizations following severe storms and flash flooding which occurred June 20-26.

**WHEN:** **Tuesday, July 9 – Thursday July 11 (See attached schedule)**

**WHERE:** **17 Minnesota Counties**  
Benton, Big Stone, Douglas, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Hennepin, Houston, McLeod, Mille Lacs, Pope, Sibley, Stearns, Stevens, Swift, Traverse and Wilkin

**WHO:** Officials from FEMA, HSEM and impacted counties. **Media wishing to cover the damage assessments should contact Julie Anderson at 651-216-0837.**

**WHY:** The preliminary damage assessment is the first step in determining if Governor Mark Dayton will make a request for a presidential declaration of disaster. This declaration request would be for the Public Assistance program which provides federal assistance to state and local jurisdictions and certain private not-for-profit organizations. The funds are for debris removal, emergency protective measures and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities and other infrastructure.

#### **Disaster Process**

- 1. Local and state officials conduct an initial impact assessment.**  
This occurred shortly after the storm when HSEM officials met with local officials to identify facilities impacted, damage, impacts to the communities and their demographics.
- 2. HSEM requests FEMA to conduct a preliminary damage assessment.**  
Teams from the affected county, HSEM and FEMA conduct the assessment. They view the damage and collect the cost estimates from county officials. If the damage exceeds the federally determined damage threshold of \$7.266 million statewide, the process continues.
- 3. HSEM prepares the governor's request for a disaster declaration.**  
Letter details the event and cites National Weather Service data. It must document factors that determine severity, magnitude and impact. It also documents what local officials did to respond to the emergency.

Alcohol  
and Gambling  
Enforcement

Bureau of  
Criminal  
Apprehension

Driver  
and Vehicle  
Services

Emergency  
Communication  
Networks

Homeland  
Security and  
Emergency  
Management

Minnesota  
State Patrol

Office of  
Communications

Office of  
Justice Programs

Office of  
Pipeline Safety

Office of  
Traffic Safety

State Fire Marshal

Local input regarding impact to the community is gathered and incorporated in the letter. This includes the amount and type of damage, impact on infrastructure, impact on essential services, concentration of damage, level of insurance coverage, assistance available from other sources, and if there is an imminent threat to public health and safety.

**4. Governor submits the letter to the president through FEMA.**

FEMA reviews and sends the letter, with its recommendation to the president.

The president is the only one with authority to grant a Presidential Disaster Declaration. If assistance programs are approved, HSEM officials work in partnership with FEMA to assist disaster victims in their application for funds.

**About the Minnesota Department Public Safety**

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) comprises 11 divisions where 2,100 employees operate programs in the areas of law enforcement, crime victim assistance, traffic safety, alcohol and gambling, emergency communications, fire safety, pipeline safety, driver licensing, vehicle registration and emergency management. DPS activity is anchored by three core principles: education, enforcement and prevention.

**About the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management**

Homeland Security and Emergency Management helps Minnesotans prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters. HSEM staff members are helping Minnesota communities recover from seven federally declared disasters from 2010 through 2012.

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# **FILLMORE COUNTY**

COURTHOUSE • P.O. BOX 466 • PRESTON, MINNESOTA 55965  
KAREN BROWN • COUNTY COORDINATOR • (507) 765-4566



## **Minnesota Department of Transportation**

District 6, Rochester/Owatonna  
2900 48<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Rochester, MN 55901-5848

## **News Release**

July 3, 2013

For Immediate Release

Contact: Kristin Kammueler  
507-286-7684; 507-251-2749  
[Kristin.Kammueler@state.mn.us](mailto:Kristin.Kammueler@state.mn.us)

### **Highway 16 between Preston and Lanesboro opens to traffic**

ROCHESTER, Minn. – Highway 16 in Fillmore County from Preston to Lanesboro is now open to traffic, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Highway 16 had been closed while crews conducted culvert repairs.

Motorists should expect slight delays as flaggers and a pilot car will control traffic once paving begins in mid-July.

When the project is complete, motorists will experience a smoother ride surface and a safer highway with new guardrail.

Dunn Blacktop Co., a division of Mathy Construction, is the prime contractor for the \$2 million project.

MnDOT urges motorists to always drive with caution, slow down in work zones and never enter a road blocked with barriers or cones.

For Minnesota statewide travel information, visit [www.511mn.org](http://www.511mn.org), call 5-1-1 or log on to [www.mndot.gov](http://www.mndot.gov).

# # #

#### **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

<i>First District</i> Thomas Kaase	<i>Second District</i> Randy Dahl	<i>Third District</i> Chuck Amunrud	<i>Fourth District</i> Duane Bakke	<i>Fifth District</i> Marc Prestby
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• AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER •

# **FILLMORE COUNTY**

COURTHOUSE • P.O. BOX 466 • PRESTON, MINNESOTA 55965  
KAREN BROWN • COUNTY COORDINATOR • (507) 765-4566

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**June 28, 2013**

## **CONTACT**

Karen Brown, Fillmore County Coordinator, 507-765-4566  
Cellular 507-696-6624

For Release 6/28/2013

## **Fillmore County Flood Resources**

Fillmore County residents affected by recent flooding events are encouraged to access the following recovery resources.

- **American Red Cross:** Call 507-287-2200.
- **Salvation Army:** Call the Preston Semcac Office at 507-765-2761. If not available, then call 1-877-357-2297.
- **Semcac:** Call 507-864-7741
- **Emergency Assistance:** If you need assistance with emergency housing, food support, or other potential services contact Fillmore County Social Services at 507-765-2175.
- **Veteran Services:** If you are a Veteran in need of assistance, call the Veterans Service Office 507-765-4937 Option 3.
- **Clean-Up and Mold:** Clean-Up Kits are still available through the Fillmore County Sheriff's Office, City of Lanesboro, and City of Rushford. These kits from the Salvation Army include cleaning supplies and protective equipment. If you have questions about clean-up or mold, call Fillmore County Public Health at 507-765-3898 or access the following go Minnesota Department of Health website at:  
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/emergency/natural/floods/index.html>
- **Water Testing:** Water testing kits for bacteria will be available until July 10, 2013 at no-cost to residents with private wells. If you had flood water within 50 feet of your well, flood water covering your well head, or changes

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to the color and taste of your water please test your water. Kits are available at the Fillmore County Soil and Water Conservation District located at 900 Washington Street NW in Preston, MN. Kits are accepted for testing Monday through Thursday. Call 507-765-3878 Option 3 for details.

- **Property Assessments:** Call the Fillmore County Assessor's Department at 507-765-3868 to request a property assessment.
- **Agricultural Land and Stream Bank Damage:** Flood damage to agricultural land, conservation practices, and stream banks should be reported to the Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) located at 900 Washington Street NW in Preston. Call 765-3878 Extension 3 or email [donna.rasmussen@fillmoreswcd.org](mailto:donna.rasmussen@fillmoreswcd.org) with location information, pictures and a description of the damages. Although it is unknown at this time whether or not funding will become available for repairs, SWCD is gathering the information to determine funding needs. It is important landowners document damages with initial pictures and pictures of emergency repairs that are done so that eligibility can be determined later if funding does become available.

Current information can be found at <http://www.co.fillmore.mn.us/>

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**June 26, 2013**

## **CONTACT**

Karen Brown, Fillmore County Coordinator, 507-765-4566  
Cellular 507-696-6624

For Immediate Release

## **Highway 43 closed near Choice due to bridge repairs**

ROCHESTER, Minn. – Highway 43 is closed from Fillmore County Road 10 to Fillmore County Road 12, as crews conduct bridge repairs near Choice, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

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Motorists will detour on Fillmore County Road 12, Fillmore County Road 23 and Fillmore County Road 10.

The bridge was damaged during the flooding that occurred Sunday, June 23.

The repairs are expected to be completed Wednesday, July 10, weather permitting.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation urges motorists to always drive with caution, slow down in work zones and never enter a road blocked with barriers or cones.

For Minnesota statewide travel information visit [www.511mn.org](http://www.511mn.org), call 5-1-1 or log on to [www.mndot.gov](http://www.mndot.gov).

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