

**STATE OF NEBRASKA**  
**Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)**  
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## **Expedited Emergency Declaration Submitted for Relief from Catastrophic Flood Event**

**Lincoln, Neb.** – Today, Governor Pete Ricketts met with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regional Director Paul Taylor. During the meeting, Governor Ricketts signed and submitted Nebraska's expedited request to the federal government for disaster assistance. The request will now be considered by FEMA's regional office and headquarters.

This evening, Governor Ricketts and Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds are joining Vice President Mike Pence to survey the devastation caused to both states by last week's unprecedented weather event.

The State Emergency Operations Center at the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is staffed by state, federal and private agencies, many who rarely have the opportunity to collaborate to problem solve. In the midst of all of the angst, stories of cooperation are beginning to emerge.

Darrell Cumpton of the Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Relief (SBDR) has been leaning on the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) to get specialized volunteers to areas shut off by closed roads and washed-away bridges.

A few of the roads in Nebraska that are closed are minimally available for emergency access. NDOT has worked with the volunteer agencies to identify accessible and safe alternatives to allow critical volunteers and resources to reach difficult destinations.

Two new SBDR volunteers were trying to find a way to the Santee Sioux Nation to help with a shower unit but with their resources were unable to access the area. NDOT

stepped up to provide alternative routes to reach their destination. Santee officials canceled the request before the couple was able to arrive.

Cooperation amongst the NDOT, the Nebraska State Patrol, the Nebraska National Guard and private entities was responsible for a convoy of much-needed supplies reaching Fremont, which had been completely shut off by the floodwater, over the weekend.

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