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STATE REQUESTS PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENT WITH FEMA

Initial damage estimates to public property & infrastructure exceed \$2 million

CONCORD, N.H. – In an effort to determine the extent of damages from the July 11, 2019 storm and to help determine if any federal assistance will be available, State Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director Jennifer Harper, on behalf of Governor Chris Sununu, requested the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to conduct a joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) in Grafton County.

These joint damage assessments will document damage to homes, businesses, roads, bridges, and other infrastructure to support a request for a federal disaster declaration and federal assistance

“Last week, I traveled to Grafton County and saw the damage first-hand,” said Governor Chris Sununu. “This is an important next step as we continue to focus efforts on assisting residents and businesses impacted by the flooding. I have requested assessment teams from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to work with HSEM, and state and local partners to verify damage assessments, and expect them to be in New Hampshire as early as next week.”

The first step in determining what federal assistance would be available is for the State to assess the extent of damages. Over the past week, state and local teams have calculated more than \$2 million in damage to roads and other infrastructures in southern Grafton County, leading to today’s request. The next step is a joint PDA with FEMA.

“The assessment is necessary to confirm the reported damage; which is critical in making our case for federal aid,” HSEM Director Harper said. “If low to moderate income families experienced losses or individuals and businesses experienced uninsured losses due to the July 11 storm, they need to call 2-1-1 to report it.”

PDA teams consistent of officials from FEMA, HSEM and local emergency managers. The teams jointly document damage to determine the resources needed to help recover from a disaster. If approved, HSEM and FEMA joint assessments may begin as early as next week.

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