

# State of New Jersey 2007 State Hazard Mitigation Plan Appendix D Descriptions of Recent New Jersey Disasters

This appendix provides brief descriptions of the six most recent Presidentially-declared disasters in the State of New Jersey. The vulnerability assessment in Subsection 4.5 makes reference to these disasters and response and recovery expenditures related to them.

#### **DR-1694**

From April 14<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007 most of the State of New Jersey was impacted by the effects of severe storms and coastal and inland flooding. The strong spring storm, know as a "Northeaster", impacted the East Coast from South Carolina to Maine. On April 26, 2007, a Presidentially-declared Disaster was declared for 15 Counties in New Jersey (FEMA DR-1694). The most severe flooding and damages occurred in Bergen, Middlesex, Somerset and Passaic Counties. The infrastructure damages were greatest in Bergen County where FEMA Public Assistance totaled nearly five million dollars.

### **DR-1653**

Beginning on June 23, 2006 portions of northwestern New Jersey were impacted by severe storms and flooding. The severe storms and heavy rains resulted in flooding along the Delaware River. On July 7, 2006 a Presidentially-declared Disaster was declared for four counties in northwestern New Jersey (FEMA DR-1653). The FEMA Public Assistance for this disaster was limited to emergency work (FEMA Categories A and B); debris removal and emergency protective measures. For DR-1653, the FEMA Project Worksheets for emergency work totaled just over \$1.2 million dollars.

#### **DR-1563**

Hurricane Ivan initially made landfall along the Gulf Coast on September 16, 2004 near the border of Alabama and Florida as a Category 4 Hurricane. As the storm moved inland, it weakened and was eventually downgraded to a tropical depression before reaching New Jersey. As a tropical depression the storm continued to cause extensive damages from heavy rains that totaled up to six inches in some parts of New Jersey. The heavy rains resulted in significant flood damages particularly along the Delaware River. As a result of the event, a Presidentially-declared Disaster was declared on October 1st, 2004, for four Counties in northwestern New Jersey (FEMA DR-1563). The majority of the infrastructure damages occurred in Warren County where FEMA Public Assistance totaled almost three million dollars.

#### **DR-1530**

From July 12<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2004 portions of central New Jersey were impacted by severe storms and torrential downpours concentrated near the Interstate 295 Corridor in southern Burlington County. The excessive rain caused record breaking flash flooding along nearly every stream in the Rancocas Basin and led to the failure or damage of 51 dams in Burlington County. The flooding that resulted from the heavy rains damaged an estimated 1,000 homes (Source NOAA; NCDC Database). As a result of the event, a Presidentially-declared Disaster was declared on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004, for three Counties (FEMA DR-1530). Almost all of the infrastructure damages were concentrated in Burlington County. For DR-1530, FEMA Public Assistance totaled just over 4.6 million dollars. Of this total, four million dollars was allocated to Burlington County.

#### DR-1337

On August 12, 2000 northern New Jersey was impacted by severe storms, flooding, and mudslides. The severe thunderstorms remained nearly stationary for almost six hours and produced an estimated 15 inches of rain near the Sussex and Morris County border. The torrential rains resulted in mudslides and flooding that damaged an estimated 2,700 homes (Source NOAA; NCDC Database). On August 17, 2000 a Presidentially-declared Disaster was



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declared for three counties in northern New Jersey (FEMA DR-1337). The majority of the infrastructure damages occurred in Sussex County where FEMA Public Assistance totaled slightly over six million dollars.

### **DR-1295**

Hurricane Floyd initially made landfall on September 16, 1999 along eastern North Carolina near Cape Fear as a Category 2 Hurricane. As the storm continued in a northeast direction along the Eastern U.S. coastline it weakened to a tropical depression near the mid-Atlantic. The tropical depression produced extreme rainfall totals of between 10-14 inches in some parts of New Jersey. After the event, portions of ten States from Florida to Connecticut received Presidential Disaster Declarations. On September 18, 1999 a Presidential Disaster was declared for twelve counties in central and northern New Jersey (FEMA DR-1295). The flash flooding and overbank riverine flooding from Hurricane Floyd caused a total of 57 deaths, six of which were in New Jersey. The FEMA Project Worksheets estimated the infrastructure damages in New Jersey from Hurricane Floyd at slightly over \$53 million dollars. The most extensive damages from the event occurred in Bergen, Somerset, and Union Counties.