

MOTHER'S DAY AT SENIOR CENTER-Mrs. Veralee R. Mask, right, presents a corsage to the oldest mother with nine living children and gift to the youngest mother with seven living children during a special Mother's Day program at the Senior Center. Accepting corsages from Allen's Florist and gifts from McGinnis Department Store are Margie Pressley, left, and Rosa Burris.

eveland Declared Disaster Area

President Bush has declared 11 North Carolina counties, including Cleveland, as the Federal Disaster Area because of the May 5th tornados.

The President's major disaster declaration makes Federal aid available to affected individuals and business owners in the counties of Catawba, Cleveland, Davidson, Davis, Durham, Forsyth, Granville, Guilford, Iredell, Lincoln and Union.

Federal funding also will be provided under the declaration to pay part of the eligible recovery costs for damages to public facilities in Davidson, Davis, Durham and Forsyth Counties.

The counties were designated eligible for this aid by the Federal **Emergency Management Agency** (FEMA) immediately following the President's action. The agency said more counties may be added when damage surveys in other areas are completed and assessed.

Assistance for individuals and business owners can include temporary housing, grants, low-interest loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help them recover from the effects of the disaster.

Eligible local governments may also apply for Federal funding which will pay 75 percent of the approved costs for the repair or refarmers; and

• Public assistance is designed to provide federal grants to state and local governments and certain private non-profit organizations.

Whether both categories of assistance are made available depends on the needs identified during damage assessments by teams usually made up of federal, state and local officials. Some declarations will involve only individual assistance or only public assistance programs. However, if both programs are designated for any county, all designated counties will receive both types of assistance.

FEMA's first concern is for families and individuals adversely affected by the disaster. The degree of suffering and deprivation plays a major role in determining the need for federal assistance.

There are no hard and fast rules within FEMA requiring that a specified number of people must be affected before a request can be considered. The critical consideration is whether those impacted by the disaster have uninsured needs which state, local and/or volunteer efforts cannot meet for one reason or another.

It is virtually impossible to iniamount of property lost or to the made in the DAC whether the apamount that will be needed to re- plicant is eligible for one type of quest for federal assistance almost made by the various agencies on always includes a dollar estimate the basis of information provided of the damages. But, as the record shows, these estimates can be far too high or much too low. Such estimates are developed quickly in most cases, and their intended role is to be one factor in the decision process in determining whether the recovery effect is beyond state and local response capability.

agencies. Representatives of these agencies will move into the disaster area to provide the long-term recovery assistance not available through emergency response groups such as the American Red Cross, Salvation Army and others.

To make it easier for disaster victims to obtain individual assistance, the FCO establishes one or more Disaster Application Centers (DAC) where, under one roof, representatives of federal agencies, local and state governments, and voluntary relief agencies can counsel and accept applications for aid from individuals, families, and business firms. In some cases, where it may not be convenient for persons to come to the DAC, toll free telephone lines may be used to accept applications.

Disaster Application Centers are established close to the stricken area in large facilities, often in schools or armories, to accommodate many workers and the applicants they will serve. Following an initial interview, each applicant is directed to the desks of one or more of the government or private assistance programs most likely to meet the needs of that applicant. Since this is the beginning of the tially assign a dollar value to the application process, no decision is store those losses. A governor's re- aid or another. Such decisions are by the applicant.

Wednesday, May 24, 1989-THE KINGS MOUNTAIN HERALD-Page 5B **Conservation Sign-Up Period Listed**

The July 17 through August 4 signup period for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) may be farmers last chance to participate in the program, according to Bobbye Jack Jones, State Conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in North Carolina. "The program is scheduled to end this December," said Jones.

Under the Conservation Compliance provision of the Food Security Act, farmers who receive USDA benefits must have a Conservation Plan on their highly erodible cropland by January 1, 1990 or risk losing their USDA benefits. CRP is one option farmers have in meeting the law's requirements, stated Jones. "There is no assurance that there will be another signup period before the Conservation Compliance provision of the 1985 Food Security Act goes into effect," he added.

Under the Conservation Reserve provision, farmers who agree to take highly erodible cropland out of production and establish permanent cover on it for a 10-year period receive annual rental payments through the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS). Participants also receive cost-share payments of up to 50 percent of the cost of establishing permanent vegetative cover. More than 5,000 North Carolina farmers have taken advantage of the Conservation Reserve Program since its enactment three years ago. Recent amendments to the Food Security Act expanded eligibility criteria to include buffer strips

along streams, cropped wetland areas and fields with evidence of scour erosion. This allows producers more opportunity to participate in the Conservation Reserve Program.

For more information contact your local ASCS or SCS office.

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placement of damaged public facilities.

Paul I. Fell of FEMA's regional office in Atlanta was named to coordinate Federal recovery operations in the stricken area.

Requesting Disaster Assistance

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) serves as the central point of contact within the federal government for a wide range of emergency response activities including planning, mitigation, response, and recovery in crisis situations. Disaster assistance is provided under the authority of Public Law 93-288, as amended by PL 100-707.

When a disaster situation is beyond the capabilities of local and state forces, supplemented by private and volunteer organizations, the Governor may request that the President declare a "major disaster" or an "emergency." The Governor's request includes a statement of the impact on the affected area, the resources on hand, and the unmeet needs which require federal assistance.

A Governor's request for federal aid, addressed to the President, is forwarded to FEMA for evaluation which includes an on-scene damage assessment and analysis. FEMA's recommendation, is then forwarded to the President.

At the time of the Presidential declaration, FEMA designates the counties that are eligible for federal aid. (Additional counties are sometimes designated at a later point.) The President's declaration also names a Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) who, as the President's representative, will direct federal recovery and coordination activities.

FEMA's responsibility is to supplement disaster assistance available through state and local governments, not to supersede it. FEMA is also responsible for coordinating disaster assistance provided by all other federal agencies, state and local governments, and, with their consent, those of private relief agencies as well.

Basic disaster assistance from the federal government falls into two possible categories:

· Individual assistance, which can provide help to individuals and families, businesses, including

The Application Process

Presidential approval of a Governor's request for federal supplemental assistance activates a wide range of disaster recovery programs from a variety of federal

Important points to keep in mind about the Disaster Application Centers:

• A visit to a DAC is the first of several steps in the recovery process. Applicants will receive information and applications at those centers, not goods or cash.

· Long lines on opening day and busy signals on the phone can be avoided by those not severely affected by the disaster by waiting a day or two before filing an appl tion.

See Disaster, Page 9-B



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