

DAILY DART

WSP USA INSPECTION SERVICES DISASTER AWARENESS REPORT

January 8, 2024

Severe Weather Outlook

- Dangerous severe storms could produce tornadoes, including in the overnight hours, in parts of the South as a powerful storm tracks across the region. The storm will also produce flooding rain and strong, gusty winds.
- Rainfall from this storm is on the increase in the Southern Plains. Heavier rain will become more widespread in the South as the day wears on and the risk of severe weather will rise as well.
- The potential for severe storms producing damaging winds and tornadoes could extend from Texas eastward into southern parts of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama as well as the Florida Panhandle on Monday and Monday night. Houston, New Orleans and Mobile, Alabama, are some of the cities at risk.
- The threat of dangerous nighttime tornadoes may ramp up Monday night and early Tuesday, especially from southeast Louisiana to southern Mississippi, southern Alabama and the western Florida Panhandle. A strong tornado or two (EF2 or higher) could occur during this time.
- Severe weather, including a tornado threat, could be ongoing early Tuesday morning in southern Alabama, the Florida Panhandle and southwest Georgia.



Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments

| State | Event | Number of Counties for IA | | Start-End |
|-------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | | Requested | Completed | |
| ME | Flooding Dec 17 - Continuing | 16 | 2 | 1/2 - TBD |

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Summary of Declaration Requests in Progress

| Pending Individual Assistance Declaration Request | | | | |
|---|--|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| State | Event | Date Submitted | Approved/Denied/Pending | Number of Counties |
| OH | Train Derailment Feb 3-8, 2023 | 7/3/2023 | Pending | 1 County |
| WA | Wildfires Aug 18-25 | 10/4/2023 | Pending | 1 County |
| MI* | Severe Storms, Tornadoes & Flooding Aug 24-26 | 10/18/2023 | Pending | 9 Counties |
| WV | Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides & Mudslides Aug 28-30 | 10/25/2023 | Pending | 5 Counties |
| RI | Severe Storms, Flooding & Tornadoes Sep 10-13 | 11/8/2023 | APPROVED | 1 County |
| MA | Severe Storms & Flooding Sep 11-13 | 12/11/2023 | Pending | 2 Counties |

*Award of task order to contractor pending

Ohio

- In February, a Norfolk Southern train carrying toxic chemicals derailed in East Palestine, Ohio.
- Some 1,500 residents were told to evacuate. Fearing an explosion, officials decided to vent and burn five tank cars, releasing 116,000 gallons of the carcinogen vinyl chloride into the air. Minutes later, a toxic plume of smoke smothered the region.
- Three days later, the Environmental Protection Agency said it had not detected contaminants at “levels of concern” and gave the all-clear for residents to return. Residents complained of rashes and sickness.
- In July, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine requested that Biden issue a disaster declaration, but the president has yet to do so.
- Administration officials have defended the government’s response to the derailment, saying the Environmental Protection Agency and FEMA have deployed a steady stream of resources and hundreds of staff members to assess environmental and health risks. Many remain on the ground, officials said.
- Mr. Biden also signed an executive order in September calling on federal agencies to continue conducting assessments to hold Norfolk Southern accountable, and he appointed a FEMA coordinator to oversee long-term recovery efforts.
- The state’s request for a federal disaster declaration remains open while the coordinator completes an assessment to find needs not being met by Norfolk Southern.
- At this time, if the pending disaster declaration is approved, FEMA’s in-house inspectors will respond to this task order.

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Washington

- On October 4, 2023, Gov. Jay Inslee sent a letter to President Biden asking for a major disaster declaration and requesting federal assistance to help survivors recover from damages incurred by wildfires in Spokane County from August 18 to 25.
- During that time, the Gray and Oregon Road fires killed two people and destroyed more homes than any other fire in state history.
- Inslee asked the president to make financial assistance for wildfire survivors available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Individual Assistance program.
- The Gray and Oregon Road fires burned over 22,000 acres (nearly 35 square miles) combined, forcing entire towns to evacuate. There were also 710 structures lost in both fires (366 of them being homes).
- Hundreds of individuals evacuated for more than 96 hours; and at least 227 people stayed in congregate shelters at the peak of the incident.
- At this time, if the pending disaster declaration is approved, FEMA's in-house inspectors will respond to this task order.

Michigan

- Seven tornadoes were reported across the state on Thursday, Aug. 24, with winds peaking at 125 mph. It was the most tornadoes to cut through Michigan in a single day during the month of August, according to the National Weather Service.
- The path of the severe thunderstorms was almost exactly along I-96 from Grand Rapids to Lansing to Detroit. The storm left a trail of destruction in Kent, Ingham, Livingston, Monroe and Wayne counties.
- The most serious tornado damage occurred near the expressway, in a stretch between the city of Williamston and village of Webberville, about 15 and 20 miles east-southeast of Lansing, respectively.
- Overnight rain had turned parts of Detroit Metro Airport into an island and much of Canton was under water, with hundreds of flooded homes, along with parts of Van Buren Township, Plymouth and Novi.
- A record 3.5 inches of rainfall was measured over 24 hours at Detroit Metro Airport in Romulus, the most ever recorded on Aug. 24, according to the National Weather Service.
- Governor Gretchen Whitmer declared a state of emergency in the counties of Eaton, Ingham, Ionia, Kent, Livingston, Monroe and Wayne as well as the cities of South Lyon in Oakland County and New Baltimore and Chesterfield Township in Macomb County.
- On September 19th – 22nd, FEMA conducted damage assessments in nine counties.
- On October 18, the Governor of Michigan requested individual assistance for the counties of Eaton, Ingham, Ionia, Kent, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland and Wayne.
- On October 21st, WSP responded to a proposal request for this event. We are waiting for FEMA's decision award.

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West Virginia

- On October 25th, governor of West Virginia requested individual assistance for 5 counties (Boone, Calhoun, Clay, Harrison and Kanawha).
- On November 6, 2023, Representatives Carol Miller (R-WV) and Alex Mooney (R-WV) as well as Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) sent a letter to President Joe Biden and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region III Administrator Maryann Tierney to approve the State of West Virginia's appeal for a disaster declaration.
- Heavy rains caused damages by flooding, landslides, and mudslides in 5 counties throughout central and southern West Virginia from August 28, 2023 to August 30, 2023.
- Persistent rains resulted in major flooding events in Boone, Calhoun, Clay, Harrison and Kanawha Counties. As the heavy downpour of rains fell, areas surrounding rivers, creeks and small streams were unable to absorb the excess precipitation causing flooding and residential damage.
- According to the most recent assessment from Kanawha County, three homes were completely destroyed, 32 homes suffered major damage, 54 had minor damage, and at least 24 more homes were affected. In addition, 22 private bridges were destroyed.
- At this time, if the pending disaster declaration is approved, FEMA's in-house inspectors will respond to this task order.

Rhode Island

- Portions of northern Rhode Island were slammed with torrential, monsoonal rainfall September 10-11, 2023, flooding out neighborhoods and roads. Several inches of precipitation within the span of only a few hours caused havoc.
- Firefighters in Providence rescued more than two dozen people after flash flooding caused the West River to overflow and left 25 people stranded at a local shopping plaza.
- Dozens of residents of a Cranston, Rhode Island, apartment complex were displaced after flood water filled multiple ground floor apartments on Sunday.
- The National Weather Service confirmed two tornadoes touched down in Rhode Island on September 13, 2023. Two EF1 tornadoes touched down in Glocester and Lincoln, Rhode Island with maximum wind speeds of 100 mph.
- On November 8, 2023, Governor of Rhode Island requested individual assistance for Providence County.
- On January 8, 2024, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. declared that a major disaster exists in the State of Rhode Island and ordered Federal assistance to supplement state, tribal, and local recovery efforts in the areas affected by severe storms, flooding, and tornadoes from September 10 to September 13, 2023.
- The President's action makes Federal funding available to affected individuals in Providence County.
- At this time, FEMA's in-house inspectors will respond to this task order.

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Massachusetts

- On September 11, a stationary frontal boundary brought slow-moving showers and thunderstorms to the Northeastern United States, bringing heavy rainfall across portions of the region.
- Upwards of 10 inches of rain fell in Worcester and Bristol Counties, causing widespread flooding, downed trees, power outages and damage to homes, businesses, and infrastructure, including bridges, dams and train tracks.
- Massachusetts governor Maura Healey described the flooding "catastrophic", and a flash flood emergency was issued for Leominster and Fitchburg.
- On September 12, 2023, Governor Maura T. Healey declared a state of emergency for Worcester County, Bristol County and other communities.
- On October 12, 2023, the Mayor of Leominster walked through the city to assess the damage and recovery efforts with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The Mayor's Office said Leominster residents and businesses have submitted 1,400 damage forms to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and Federal Emergency Management Agency.
- On December 11, 2023, the Governor of Massachusetts requested a major disaster declaration for the severe storms and flooding that occurred September 11-13th. She is requesting individual assistance for two counties: Bristol and Worcester.
- At this time, if the pending disaster declaration is approved, FEMA's in-house inspectors will respond to this task order.

WSP USA Inspection Services Active Disasters

| Disaster Number and State | Disaster Type | Number of Counties Declared | Days Since Launch | Registration Deadline |
|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 4749 IL | Flooding | 1 County | 45 | 1/19/2024 |

WSP USA INSPECTION SERVICES ACTIVITY

