

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

JULY 2013 THUNDERSTORMS INYO

AFTER ACTION / CORRECTIVE ACTION REPORT

BACKGROUND

From July 22, 2013 through July 28, 2013, severe thunderstorms occurred in Inyo County, bringing torrential rains, high winds, electrical storms, and flash flooding throughout the south and south eastern portions of the county. The severe storm caused conditions of extreme peril to the transportation infrastructure, public health, and the safety of the persons and properties within Inyo County. The circumstances of the storm damages were beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the county. Inyo County requested a Cal OES Director's Concurrence and for the Governor to proclaim a State of Emergency to include California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA).

To expedite the investigation, analysis, and repair work, the Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency (and approved CDAA). The proclamation allowed the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to formally request immediate assistance through the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief Program, 23 U.S.C. Section 125, to obtain federal assistance for critical highway repairs or reconstruction in the County of Inyo. Caltrans continued to work with transit authorities to facilitate the flow of goods and services as well as address the needs of commuters affected by this event until repairs were completed.

Damage Estimate

Damage Assessment estimate costs totaled \$3,000,000.

Incident Period

July 22, 2013 to July 28, 2013

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EVENT DETAILS

Type of Event Thunderstorms

Location Inyo County

Incident Period July 22, 2013 to July 28, 2013

Brief Description of Event From July 22, 2013 through July 28, 2013, severe thunderstorms descended upon Inyo County, bringing torrential rains, high winds, electrical storms, and flash flooding throughout the south and south eastern portions of the county. The severe damage forced the closure of critical roadways for the residents and visitors that connect the population centers of Inyo County and Death Valley National Park; Death Valley Road, Saline Valley Road, including portions of highways 395, 190 and 168. The storm caused mud and debris flows, and localized flooding, throughout portions of central, south and south east Inyo County. Roadway repair costs were estimated at approximately \$3,000,000.

Proclamations and Declarations On September 30, 2013, a state of emergency was proclaimed for the county of Inyo with approval of CDAA funding. The Governor's proclamation was based on the following criteria:

- Destruction of portions of Death Valley Road, Saline Valley Road, State Route 395, 190 and 168 and temporary closures in Inyo County
- Extensive damage requiring the reconstruction of roadways
- To assist the Department in requesting federal highway funds

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RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

Multi-Agency Coordination Although the local Emergency Operation Center (EOC) was not opened, there was staff in the field that provided support in the roles of Command, Operations, Planning, and Logistics for the incident and Department Operations Center (DOC). The incident response required a multi-department and multi-agency effort, including the Inyo County Sheriff's Department, Health and Human Services, Road Department, Public Works Department, County Counsel, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and Cal OES.

Southern Region and State Agency Response Cal OES Southern Region Emergency Operation Center (REOC) was activated for another event and was monitoring Inyo's event for any necessary support. The Southern REOC received and forwarded Inyo's proclamation with the ratifying resolution along with photos of roadway damage. A regional analysis was also completed.

California Department of Transportation
Caltrans inspected the state highways in the impacted area and found no significant damage to any state highway. However, there was significant damage to several county roads for which Caltrans requested emergency repair funds on behalf of Inyo County.

RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

Recovery Activities Local government is working in coordination with the Cal OES Recovery personnel to complete projects that are currently funded under CDAA. These projects repair the critical county roadways within Inyo County that were damaged during the storm activity. The damage assessment estimate totaled \$3,000,000.

SUMMARY OF SUCCESSES

Successes Emergency management officials at the local and regional level closely monitored response activities. Due to the narrow scope of this incident, the local EOC was not activated and normal vehicle accident response procedures were followed by field level first responders. Swift and aggressive action was taken to protect the people of the area. The county roads and highways are critical to protect the lives and property of the Inyo County residents and the visiting populations to Mount Whitney and Death Valley.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

Area of Concern None.

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CORRECTIVE ACTION RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation None.

ORGANIZATIONS CONTRIBUTING TO THIS REPORT

Agencies and	Caltrans
Departments	Cal OES
	Inyo County Office of Emergency Services