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(S.D.)-FEMA Coordinating Disaster Response In Pine Ridge, Other Areas



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 05/20/2013 08:29 AM

PIERRE, S.D. (ASSOCIATED PRESS) - Officials with the Federal Emergency Management Agency are in South Dakota to coordinate a relief effort in the wake of a three-day ice and snow storm last month.

President Barack Obama has approved a disaster declaration for Douglas, Hutchinson, Lincoln, McCook, Minnehaha, Shannon and Turner counties as well as the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

FEMA representatives met with state officials in Pierre on Friday, and they'll be meeting with local officials this week to discuss reimbursements for work done during and after the storm. That can include everything from infrastructure repairs to debris removal to police overtime pay.

The storm dumped more than two feet of snow on the reservation, and an ice storm in eastern South Dakota knocked out electricity to about 115,000 people.