

# How the federal disaster declaration process works

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the immediate burden for disaster relief falls on local governments and the state, but certain catastrophic events can receive federal resources to help with search and rescue, electrical power, food, water, shelter and other recovery efforts. How an Illinois disaster receives FEMA aid status:



**1** After a flood or other disaster strikes, municipalities and counties assess the damage; local officials begin repairs or cleanup as best they can.



**2** Gov. Pat Quinn declares the region a state disaster. The state can then send vehicles, machines or staff to help keep the area safe or clean up debris.



**3** The governor requests FEMA to assess the damage.



**6** Depending on the type of disaster damage, Obama can issue a major disaster declaration for public assistance (aid to public and certain non-profit groups for emergency services and the repair of infrastructure), individual assistance (aid to individuals, households or businesses) or hazard mitigation assistance (funding to reduce future damage to public and private property).



**5** If Quinn decides the losses are too much for state and local officials, he'll send an official disaster declaration request to FEMA. FEMA sends the request to President Barack Obama.



**4** Local, state and federal officials conduct damage assessments together; the data are sent to the governor's office.