

## January blizzard declared federal disaster

Posted: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 11:30 am

Cape May and Atlantic counties will receive recovery funds for a severe winter storm that slammed the region in late January, the Federal Emergency Management Agency announced Tuesday morning.

The county was included in a federal disaster recovery package granted this week by President Barack Obama to supplement recovery efforts in New Jersey after coastal towns suffered severe tidal flooding and inland areas were shut down from snowfall that in some areas reached accumulations of two feet or more.

According to a press release issued by FEMA, state and local governments, as well as certain nonprofit organizations, will share recovery funds for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities in Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Somerset, Union, and Warren counties.

Additional funding is available for Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Somerset, Union, and Warren counties, areas in which snow fell for a continuous 48-hour period, the release said.

The release said funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures for the state of New Jersey.

The storm that hit from Friday, Jan. 22 to Sunday, Jan. 24 left flood damages that were severe in some of Cape May County's shore communities.

Laura Connolly, public information officer for the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management, said the state OEM will schedule informational briefings with county and municipal emergency management officials on the funding.

Connolly said the state will know the cost once all county and municipal funding applications are filed.

Towns can apply for the funding at their respective briefings, said Phyllis Deroian, an external affairs officer with FEMA assigned to the case. They also have the option to wait before applying, and will have until 60 days after the briefing to do so, Deroian said.



Saturday morning tidal flooding at 53rd Street

Flood waters on 53rd Street in Ocean City Saturday, Jan. 23. Cape May and Atlantic counties were included in a federal disaster recovery package announced Tuesday, March 15.

Deroian said the process usually involves holding one briefing per county, but some meetings will include more than one county, Deroian said.

Connolly said briefings could be set up regionally, due to the broad scope of the funding.