



## Kingman County Commission

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### **Kingman County signs disaster declaration for flooding**

For the second time in the past five weeks, Kingman County Commissioners have signed a State of Local Disaster Emergency for the county. Both actions were the result of flooding.

The newest declaration was signed at the Sept. 12 commission meeting. It notes that certain conditions on Sept. 8 caused or threatened to cause “wide-spread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property in disaster proportion” in the county. The declaration will remain in effect for 10 days.

The primary cause of damage was flooding after heavy rains hit the area on Sept. 8. Emergency Manager Fred Simon is collecting damage estimates from townships. Most of the damage suffered by townships is to roads, culverts and bridges. Several municipalities have also been affected by the flooding, reporting damage to roadways and extra hours of call back time to manage the event.

The county must meet a public damage threshold of \$27,974 to be eligible for any assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The threshold for the State of Kansas to get a Presidential disaster declaration is \$4,022,896.

Simon noted that FEMA requirements for assistance have gotten more stringent and at times it is difficult for local entities to satisfy those requirements, which include detailed record keeping.

The county also made a disaster declaration on Aug. 8. Simon said flood damage in the county from that event easily exceeded the threshold, topping \$100,000, but the state threshold was not met.

An earlier declaration signed back in late May of this year was also disqualified because FEMA, due to new rules, discounted many claims by other counties, which kept the state’s threshold under the limit.

“We are hopeful that this time the claims can be approved and relief payments can be processed,” said Simon.

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