



GOVERNMENT

Federal government approves major disaster declaration for August 2023 flood

BY: **LORI KERSEY** - JANUARY 31, 2024 1:27 PM



📷 This car was washed into Witcher Creek during the flooding on Monday, Aug. 28, 2023, in Belle, W.Va. (Lori Kersey | West Virginia Watch)

The federal government this week approved a major [disaster declaration](#) related to an August storm event that affected residents in five West Virginia counties.

Residents affected by severe flooding, landslides and mudslides from Aug. 28-30 in Boone, Calhoun, Clay, Harrison and Kanawha counties may be eligible for individual assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The flooding happened after several inches of rain fell Aug. 28 and during the weekend before. In [Kanawha County, flooding slammed](#) the communities of Slaughter Creek, Winifrede-Fields Creek, Witcher Creek, Kellys Creek and Horsemill Hollow.

According to Kanawha County emergency officials, three houses in the county were destroyed, 22 others had major damage and 54 had minor damage.

During his administration briefing Wednesday, Gov. Jim Justice said FEMA had initially denied the state's request for a disaster declaration "and we just stayed after it."

In a news release Wednesday, the Kanawha County Commission thanked Justice for his efforts in requesting the disaster declaration on behalf of the county as well as the state's federal delegation and the staff from the commission office and emergency management, planning office.

"The Kanawha County Commission understood the devastation endured by the citizens affected by the flooding and worked tirelessly with state and federal delegations to ensure they would receive the help they needed," the commission said.

Affected residents can apply for FEMA assistance online at www.disasterassistance.gov or by phone at 1-800-621-3362 (TTY: 800-462- 7585).



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