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## **Gov. Pritzker Requests Federal Review of Damage Assessments in Ford County**

### *Documentation could support request for federal assistance*

**Springfield, Ill.** – Governor JB Pritzker today formally requested the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to conduct a joint preliminary damage assessment in Ford County, working alongside local and state emergency managers, to review and verify damages associated with the August 12 storm that dumped nearly nine (9) inches of rain in and around Gibson City. The assessments, which is tentatively scheduled to begin on August 18, could provide the documentation necessary to support a request for federal assistance.

This joint damage assessment will include personnel from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and the U.S. Small Business Administration. Officials will be reviewing damage to homes, businesses, roads, and other critical infrastructure items. These individuals will be wearing proper identification and will be accompanied by local officials.

“The damage assessment is a critical step in the state’s efforts to seek federal disaster assistance for residents whose homes were damaged and possessions destroyed by this devastating storm,” **said Governor JB Pritzker.** “This administration will continue to work hand-in-hand with our local, state and federal partners to ensure Illinois rebuilds stronger and more resilient.”

The State Emergency Operations Center in Springfield, at the direction of Governor Pritzker, has been assisting Ford County since the storm by providing guidance and assistance where necessary. This includes working with private and public organizations to aid the local government and residents of Ford County. The American

Red Cross continues to operate a shelter for residents displaced by the storm and has served nearly 50 people since the services were made available.

For residents impacted by the storm, the State of Illinois has established virtual [Multi-Agency Resource Center \(MARC\)](#) on the Ready Illinois website to help storm survivors access disaster related relief services and information. Additional resources can be obtained by contacting their local emergency management office.

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