

| Declaration Number | Date of Declaration | State/Territory | Event |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--|
| 598 | 9/13/79 | Alabama | Hurricane Frederic |
| 615 | 2/21/80 | California | Severe storms, mudslides, and flooding |
| 640 | 5/27/81 | Montana | Severe storms and flooding |
| 651 | 1/7/82 | California | Severe storms, flood, mudslides |
| 677 | 2/9/83 | California | Coastal storms, floods, slides |
| 705 | 5/15/84 | Kentucky | High winds, tornadoes, and flooding |
| 753 | 11/7/85 | West Virginia | Severe storms and flooding |
| 758 | 2/21/86 | California | Severe storms and flooding |
| 799 | 10/7/87 | California | Earthquake and aftershocks |
| 808 | 1/8/88 | Hawaii | Severe storms, mudslides, and flooding |
| 845 | 10/18/89 | California | Loma Prieta Earthquake |
| 883 | 11/26/90 | Washington | Severe storms and flooding |
| 927 | 12/13/91 | American Samoa | Hurricane Val |
| 955 | 8/24/92 | Florida | Hurricane Andrew |
| 995 | 7/9/93 | Missouri | Severe storms and flooding |
| 1,008 | 1/17/94 | California | Northridge Earthquake |
| 1,067 | 9/16/95 | Virgin Islands | Hurricane Marilyn |
| 1,134 | 9/6/96 | North Carolina | Hurricane Fran |
| 1,193 | 12/17/97 | Guam | Typhoon Paka, torrential rains, wind |
| 1,247 | 9/24/98 | Puerto Rico | Hurricane Georges |
| 1,292 | 9/16/99 | North Carolina | Hurricane Floyd |
| 1,345 | 10/4/00 | Florida | Severe storms and flooding |
| 1,391 | 9/11/01 | New York | Fires and explosions, terrorist attack |

Table 5–2. Most Expensive Major Disaster Declarations, 1979–2001.

¹ FEMA spending. This number represents the money spent from the Disaster Trust Fund, which includes spending under FEMA-approved mission assignment by other federal agencies but does not include monies spent from non-FEMA federal agency accounts. State and local government expenditures (including matching funds) and private and insurance costs (including claims paid under federal insurance as part of the National Flood Insurance Program) are also not included in this figure.

disaster declarations for the flood) stands at about \$1.33 billion in 2003 constant dollars.³¹ (These disasters are discussed further beginning on page 142.) More recent disasters, such as the 9/11 terror attacks and Hurricane Katrina, have cost the federal government even more.

| | FEMA Relief, Current Dollars ¹ | FEMA Relief, Constant (2003) Dollars ² | President Issuing Declaration |
|--|--|--|-------------------------------|
| | 186,058,159 | 470,727,142 | Carter |
| | 89,802,346 | 200,259,232 | Carter |
| | 4,491,650 | 9,073,133 | Reagan |
| | 29,168,478 | 55,420,108 | Reagan |
| | 115,982,094 | 214,566,874 | Reagan |
| | 17,455,772 | 30,896,716 | Reagan |
| | 110,119,852 | 188,304,947 | Reagan |
| | 54,912,707 | 92,253,348 | Reagan |
| | 44,944,829 | 72,810,623 | Reagan |
| | 5,303,893 | 8,221,034 | Reagan |
| | 836,483,340 | 1,237,995,343 | G.H.W. Bush |
| | 50,215,305 | 70,803,580 | G.H.W. Bush |
| | 96,729,580 | 130,584,933 | G.H.W. Bush |
| | 1,654,328,135 | 2,167,169,856 | G.H.W. Bush |
| | 279,903,635 | 355,477,616 | Clinton |
| | 5,584,845,418 | 6,925,208,318 | Clinton |
| | 493,757,789 | 597,446,925 | Clinton |
| | 431,390,378 | 504,726,742 | Clinton |
| | 148,496,747 | 170,771,259 | Clinton |
| | 1,915,593,338 | 2,164,518,771 | Clinton |
| | 689,564,680 | 758,521,148 | Clinton |
| | 602,937,350 | 645,142,964 | Clinton |
| | 8,616,595,410 | 8,961,259,226 | G.W. Bush |

² Assistance made to state and county governments.

From the mid-1980s to the present, the growth in declarations and the resulting larger federal disaster expenditures have partly been a result of presidential decisions to expand the definition of what constitutes a disaster or an emergency. It is also true that traditional types of disasters have increased in number and in magnitude of loss over the same period. Many factors account for this. First, urban sprawl often leads to development in hazard zones; throughout the country, the numbers of people and structures situated along coastlines and estuaries vulnerable to flooding and hurricane devastation have increased significantly.³² Second, changes in natural forces—for example, patterns of temperature extremes and precipitation changes,

| Year | FEMA Spending (in millions of dollars) |
|------|--|
| 1989 | 1,436 |
| 1990 | 1,194 |
| 1991 | 410 |
| 1992 | 2,805 |
| 1993 | 1,910 |
| 1994 | 8,145 |
| 1995 | 1,463 |
| 1996 | 2,453 |
| 1997 | 1,869 |
| 1998 | 4,014 |
| 1999 | 1,982 |
| 2000 | 786 |
| 2001 | 12,470 |

Table 5-3. FEMA Total Disaster Declaration Spending, All Types and Categories, 1989-2001.

Source: PERI, DHS-FEMA spending totals by year as of 7/31/06; see peripresdecusa.org (last accessed January 14, 2012).

effects from high-density human settlement and deforestation, and the vagaries of change in weather patterns—may also increase human vulnerability to disaster as well as levels of disaster damage. Finally, many structural mitigation works built in the last century, such as dams, bridges, and levees, have not been properly funded or maintained, putting them at increased risk of failing.

From Civil Defense to Homeland Security

Civil defense against nuclear attack was a significant part of Carter's and Reagan's Cold War foreign policy. The Reagan administration convinced Congress to increase defense spending, particularly for new generations of nuclear weaponry and an antiballistic missile defense system. Dual-use requirements mandated that to receive federal civil defense funding for civilian use, federal, state, and local emergency managers must supply an acceptable civil defense justification. Consequently, FEMA was drawn into national security matters through its civil relocation program, sheltering programs, and continuity-of-government program.

In early 1989, as the Berlin Wall came down and the Cold War came to a close, civil defense lost its support in Congress, in the Department of Defense, and in the National Security Council. State and local governments were gradually freed of the restraints imposed by dual-use requirements of federal disaster funding. These conditions had often frustrated and confounded emergency managers,