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**KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT**  
**Lawrence A. Stelma – Sheriff**

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701 Ball Avenue, N.E. • Grand Rapids • Michigan • 49503



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 11, 2013**

**Contact: Lisa LaPlante – 616.632.7182**

**FEMA, MSP Officials to Meet with Community Leaders,  
Emergency Management Division on Friday**

**GRAND RAPIDS** – FEMA Officials and members of the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD) will be in Kent County on Friday, July 12, 2013, to meet with community leaders who are interested in applying for federal reimbursement funds. Communities in Kent County may be eligible to receive federal aid to cover costs incurred by flood response efforts of April 16 through May 14, 2013.

“This briefing will give applicants a chance to learn about the *Request for Public Assistance* process, and discuss eligibility requirements with state and federal officials,” said Jack Stewart, Emergency Management Coordinator for Kent County. “Those who attend will receive an orientation on the application process, but it is not mandatory for applicants to attend.” Eligible applicants could include emergency response agencies, public utilities, parks and recreation, road and drain commissions, units of government, schools (including charters), electric cooperatives, and certain private/nonprofit organizations.

The Applicant Briefing will be held from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. on Friday, July 12 at the Kent ISD Conference Center, located at 1633 East Beltline Avenue NE in Grand Rapids. Applicants from all sixteen counties named in the Major Disaster Declaration may attend this briefing. These include Allegan, Baraga, Barry, Gogebic, Houghton, Ionia, Kent, Keweenaw, Marquette, Midland, Muskegon, Newaygo, Ontonagon, Osceola, Ottawa, and Saginaw counties.

“Our assessments have determined the flooding caused more than ten million dollars of damage in Kent County,” said Stewart. “Applicants may be able to recover costs tied to the extended emergency response, as well as damages to public properties, roads and infrastructure.”

This briefing is for municipal applicants only. Individuals, homeowners and businesses affected by the flooding may be eligible for low-interest rate disaster loans through the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Applicants can apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA’s secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is August 12, 2013. The deadline to return economic injury applications is March 12, 2014.

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