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For Immediate Release

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COUNTY ASKS PATIENCE FOR PATIENCE FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

NEWTON, NC—Catawba County Emergency Management is asking that citizens who have reported damage from July 27, 2013 flooding remain patient as the damage assessment process continues. The number of reports of damage increased during the day on Monday, July 29 and additional assessment teams are being created to assess damage. The process of requesting assistance from the State of North Carolina began on Monday, July 29 with a formal letter of request but that process is expected to take weeks to complete.

“We have had in excess of 470 reports of flooding damage from citizens and we have heard from some citizens who registered their damage and were concerned that an assessment was not being done that same day,” said Karyn Yaussy, Catawba County Emergency Management Coordinator. “We encourage everyone with damage to report it but we also ask for patience. It is necessary for us to prioritize our response in some cases. Residents who are without electricity or who are trapped in their homes or neighborhoods due to road or bridge damage and areas known to have been most severely hit are being assessed more quickly.

“We believe it will be a number of weeks before the process of receiving assistance from State or Federal government agencies is completed”, Yaussy added. “We will respond to each and every report of damage but it will take some time to do so. We are grateful to the citizens for sending us reports of damage and for their support and understanding as we continue to respond to a significant disaster event.”

The public may report damage at <http://bit.ly/ccflood> or call 828-466-7208.

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