



**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

October 10, 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Through: Gracia B. Szczech, Regional Administrator  
FEMA Region IV  
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road  
Atlanta, GA 30341

RE: Request for Major Disaster Declaration  
Hurricane Michael

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C §§5121-5207 (the "Stafford Act"), as implemented by 44 C.F.R. §206.36, I request that you declare a Major Disaster for the State of Florida as a result of Hurricane Michael to include Individual Assistance, all categories of Public Assistance, as well as Hazard Mitigation. This request is timely under 44 CFR §206.36(a).

On October 8<sup>th</sup>, I requested a pre-landfall Emergency Declaration because of the threat posed by the storm. On October 9<sup>th</sup>, the President granted the request and declared EM-3405, which authorizes Direct Federal Assistance and Categories A and B of Public Assistance for the following, fourteen counties: Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Hamilton, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor, and Wakulla.

I request that the incident period for this disaster start on October 7<sup>th</sup>, the beginning date for EM-3405. And as with the Emergency Declaration, I request that the Major Disaster Declaration include the fourteen counties listed above.

**I. The Disaster is So Extraordinary that a Higher Federal Cost Share is Warranted  
- 44 CFR §206.47**

Given the size, strength, and track of the storm, and given the fact that Florida communities are still recovering from Hurricane Hermine (DR-4280 declared September 28, 2016), Hurricane Matthew (DR-4283 declared October 8, 2016), and Hurricane Irma (DR-4337 declared on September 10, 2017), I specifically request the following:

- 100% Federal cost share for Categories A and B (Debris Removal and Emergency Protective Measures) for the first 60 days, with a 90% Federal cost share thereafter - see 44 CFR §206.47(d);
- Transitional Sheltering Assistance (Category B); and,
- 90% Federal cost share for all other categories of Public Assistance (Permanent Work Categories C-G) - see 44 CFR §206.47(b).

**II. The Disaster is a Catastrophe of Unusual Severity and Magnitude When Field Damage Assessments are not Necessary - 44 CFR §206.36(d)**

Given the size, strength, and track of the storm, I specifically request the following:

- Expedited processing; and,
- A disaster declaration without the use of any damage assessments - see 44 C.F.R. §206.36(d).

For this disaster, there is no need for damage assessments. The destruction from a major hurricane with 155 mph sustained winds and up to 13 feet of storm surge should be more than sufficient to satisfy any arbitrary, per capita threshold for State or county damages.

On the State side, the impacts to Bay and Franklin counties alone should be more than enough to meet the \$27 million threshold for Public Assistance; and, the needs of the survivors in those counties should paint a sufficient picture for an Individual Assistance declaration.

On the local side, even if a county were to be included as part of the declaration without meeting its threshold, Federal assistance would only be possible if:

- For Public Assistance – the applicant can tie damage to the storm; and,
- For Individual Assistance – the survivor can demonstrate a need caused by the storm.

Consequently, the risk that a lightly impacted county would receive unnecessary Federal assistance is minimal, at best. Given these considerations, damage assessments would be a clear waste of resources during a time of critical need.

**III. The Situation is of Such Severity and Magnitude that Effective Response is Beyond the Capability of the State and the Affected Local Governments – 44 CFR §206.36(b)(1)**

**A. Hurricane Michael**

Earlier today, Hurricane Michael made landfall near Mexico Beach as a Category 4 hurricane. With maximum sustained winds of 155 miles per hour (just below Category 5 strength), storm surge of up to 14 feet, and a minimum central pressure of 919 mb, Hurricane Michael inflicted catastrophic damage on Florida's northern Gulf Coast.

Currently, Hurricane Michael is travelling north through the Panhandle and Big Bend regions of Florida and is forecast to still be a hurricane when it exits the State. Of note, many of Big Bend cities and towns facing devastation from Hurricane Michael are still recovering from Hurricane Hermine's impacts from two years ago.

Finally, the forecast calls for Hurricane Michael to travel toward the South Carolina and North Carolina coasts. This could lead to significant tropical moisture flowing northward ("training"), bringing heavy rainfall to the Florida Peninsula communities that experienced significant flooding during Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and Hurricane Irma in 2017.

**B. State of Florida Government**

As of the date of this request, the State of Florida has expended close to \$40 million on response costs alone; State offices in 35 counties are closed; and, I have activated 3,500 of the Florida National Guard.

Additionally, I have requested the following resources through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact:

- EMAC A-Team from Mississippi
- Five Type III All Hazard Incident Management Teams from Virginia
- Two Urban Search and Rescue Teams with Swift Water Rescue Capabilities from Louisiana
- Six Type II Swift Water Rescue Teams from Mississippi
- Five Type III All Hazard Incident Management Teams from Ohio
- Four Relief Staff for State Fuels Operations
- Deputy Individual Assistance Officer
- Two Individual Assistance Specialists
- Five Donation Management Field Personnel
- One Branch Director, One Deputy Branch Director, and One Planner for State Infrastructure
- Five Type III All Hazard Incident Management Teams
- Two Public Assistance SMEs to support SEOC and Public Assistance Mission
- Five ALS Ambulance Strike Teams for patient transport
- Two Type II Urban Search and Rescue Teams with swift water rescue capabilities
- Five Type III All-Hazard Incident Management Teams from Oregon
- Six Type II Swift Water Rescue Teams
- Two Type II Urban Search and Rescue Teams with swift water rescue capabilities
- Two CH-47 Cargo Helicopters with crews from the Mississippi National Guard
- Two CH-47 Cargo Helicopters with crews from the New York National Guard
- Five Type III All-Hazard Incident Management Teams
- Five ALS Ambulance Strike Teams for patient transport from Tennessee
- Five ALS Ambulance Strike Teams for patient transport
- Five ALS Ambulance Strike Teams for patient transport
- One Ambulance Bus with Medical Personnel from Mississippi
- One CH-47 cargo Helicopter and Crew from Maryland
- One CH-47 cargo Helicopter and Crew from Ohio

- One UH- 60 Cargo Helicopters with crews from the Kansas National Guard
- One UH- 60 Cargo Helicopters with crews from the Louisiana National Guard
- Two UH- 60 Cargo Helicopters with crews from the New York National Guard
- Five Type III All-Hazard Incident Management Teams
- Two UH- 60 Cargo Helicopters with crews from the Wisconsin National Guard
- Three UH- 60 Cargo Helicopters with crews from the Colorado National Guard
- Five Type III All-Hazard Incident Management Teams

#### **C. Local Governments**

As of the date of this request, 35 counties in the State of Florida declared local states of emergency; at least 22 counties opened shelters; and, at least 27 counties ordered evacuations.

#### **IV. Federal Assistance Under the Stafford Act is Necessary to Supplement the Efforts and Available Resources of the State, Local Governments, Disaster Relief Organizations, and Compensation by Insurance for Disaster-Related Losses - 44 CFR §206.36(b)(2)**

As of the date of this request, the State has requested the following forms of Direct Federal Assistance through Resource Request Forms ("RRF's):

- Life Sustainment- Mass Feedings
- Disaster Medical Assistance Team
- AmeriCorps Disaster Response Team
- Multi Agency warehouse needs
- Federal USAR Assets to Maxwell Air Force Base
- Blue Angel Field (LSA)

In addition to the assistance listed above, I anticipate a significant need for other forms of supplementary Federal assistance in the days and weeks to come.

#### **V. Confirmation That the Governor Has Taken Appropriate Action Under State Law and Directed the Execution of the State Emergency Plan - 44 CFR §206.36(c)(1)**

The Honorable Donald Jr. Trump  
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On October 7, 2018, I issued Executive Order 18-276 and directed the State Coordinating Officer to execute the State's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

**VI. Information Describing the Nature and Amount of State and Local Resources Which Have Been or Will Be Committed to Alleviate the Results of the Disaster - 44 CFR §206.36(c)(3)**

On October 7, 2018, the State Emergency Response Team ("SERT") activated to a Level 2 - with Emergency Support Functions staffed on an as needed basis. On September 8, the SERT activation level increased to Level 1 - with all Emergency Support Functions fully staffed.

To date, State agencies have expended almost \$40 million in response costs for Hurricane Michael. Given the timing of this request, accurate figures from impacted local governments are not yet available.

**VII. Certification by the Governor That State and Local Government Obligations and Expenditures for the Current Disaster Will Comply With All Applicable Cost Sharing Requirements of the Stafford Act - 44 CFR §206.36(c)(5)**

Please see the enclosure, FEMA Form 010-0-13.

**VIII. Conclusion**

I have designated Wes Maul, Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, as the State Coordinating Officer for this emergency. He is authorized to provide any further information, assurances, requests, or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott", with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Rick Scott  
Governor

Enclosures:  
FEMA Form 010-0-13



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
**REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION  
MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY**

OMB No. 1660-0009 Expires March 31, 2016

1. Request Date Oct 10, 2018

**Burden Disclosure Notice**

Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 9 hours per response. The burden estimate includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and submitting the form. This collection of information is required to obtain a benefit. You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to: Information Collections Management, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472, Paperwork Reduction Project (1660-0009). **NOTE: Do not send your completed form to this address.**

Completion of this form including applicable attachments satisfies legal requirements for emergency and major disaster declaration requests under 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170 and 5191, respectively, as implemented at 44 C.F.R. §§ 206.35 and 206.36. Failure to use this form may result in a failure to meet these requirements and/or a delay in processing the request.

2a. Name of State (as defined in Stafford Act 102, 42 U.S.C. § 5122) or Indian tribal government requesting declaration.

State of Florida

2b. Population (as reported by 2010 Census) or estimated population of Indian tribal government's damaged area(s).

18,801,310

3. Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Name

The Honorable Rick Scott, Governor

4. Designation of State or Tribal Coordinating Officer upon declaration (if available) and phone number

Director - FL Division of Emergency Management (850) 413-9969

5. Designation of Governor's Authorized Representative or Tribal Chief Executive Representative upon declaration (if available) and phone number

Director - FL Division of Emergency Management (850) 413-9969

6. Declaration Request For: ☒ Major Disaster (Stafford Act Sec. 401) ☐ Emergency (Stafford Act Sec. 501(a))

7. Incident Period: Beginning Date Oct 7, 2018 End Date \_\_\_\_\_

or ☒ Continuing

*If requesting a "continuing" incident period, enclose an official statement from a qualified Federal Government agency acknowledged as a national authority in a specific incident field (e.g., United States Geological Survey for seismic incidents, the National Weather Service for flooding).*

7b. Type of Incident (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Drought ☐ Earthquake ☐ Explosion ☐ Fire ☐ Flood ☒ Hurricane ☐ Landslide ☐ Mudslide  
☐ Severe Storm (rain, high water, wind-driven rain, hail, lightning) ☐ Snowstorm (Must include Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data) ☐ Straight-Line Winds  
☐ Tidal Wave ☐ Tornado ☐ Tropical Depression ☐ Tropical Storm ☐ Tsunami ☐ Volcanic Eruption ☐ Winter Storm  
☐ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

8. Description of damages (Short description of impacts of disaster on affected area and population). Include additional details in enclosed Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's cover letter.

Please see Cover Letter.

9. Description of the nature and amount of State and local or Indian tribal government resources which have been or will be committed. Include additional details in enclosed Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's cover letter.

Please see Cover Letter.

10. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment\*

☒ Individual Assistance      Dates Performed \_\_\_\_\_ Requested \_\_\_\_\_ Start \_\_\_\_\_ End \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)

Hurricane Michael is a disaster of unusual magnitude and severity; therefore, damage assessments are not required under 44 CFR §206.36(d).

☒ Public Assistance      Dates Performed \_\_\_\_\_ Requested \_\_\_\_\_ Start \_\_\_\_\_ End \_\_\_\_\_

Public Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)

Hurricane Michael is a disaster of unusual magnitude and severity; therefore, damage assessments are not required under 44 CFR §206.36(d).

11. Programs and Areas Requested

Individual Assistance    ☐ N/A    ☐ Individuals and Households    ☐ Crisis Counseling Program    ☐ Disaster Unemployment Assistance  
    ☒ All    ☐ Disaster Case Management    ☐ Disaster Legal Services

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)) If additional space is needed, please enclose additional documentation).

Please see Cover Letter.

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes in the requested counties (if applicable).

n/a

Please see Enclosure A: Supplemental Information for Individual Assistance for additional information in support of this request\*.

\*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request



**11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)**

Public Assistance      ☐ N/A    ☒ Debris Removal (Category A)    ☒ Emergency Protective Measures (Category B)    ☒ Permanent Work (Categories C-G)\*  
(not available for Emergency Declaration Requests)

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)). If additional space is needed or your request includes different categories of work for different jurisdictions; please enclose additional documentation.

Please see Cover Letter.

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes included in the requested counties (if applicable).

According to the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Tribal Land Map, there are no areas of Tribal Lands within the area for which this request is being made (the 14 Florida counties listed in the cover letter).

Please see **Enclosure B: Supplemental Information for Public Assistance** for additional information in support of this request\*.

**Indemnification for Debris Removal Activity**

☐ I do not anticipate the need for debris removal.

I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health and safety. Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b & 5173, the State or Indian tribal government agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United

☒ States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State or Indian tribal government agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

**Request for Direct Federal Assistance**

☐ I do not request direct Federal assistance at this time.

☒ I request direct Federal assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property, and:

a. I request the following type(s) of assistance:

Please see Cover Letter.

b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services.  
 Please see Cover Letter.

c. In accordance with 44 C.F.R. § 206.208, the State or Indian tribal government agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance: (1) Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-ways necessary to accomplish the approved work; (2) Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work, and shall indemnify the Federal Government against any claims arising from such work; (3) Provide reimbursement to FEMA for the non-Federal share of the cost of such work in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State or FEMA-Tribe Agreement; and (4) Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

**Request for Snow Assistance**

☒ N/A      ☐ I request snow assistance.

Snow assistance for the following jurisdictions (Specify counties, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas).

n/a

Please see **Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data** for additional information in support of this request\*.

\*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

## 11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Hazard Mitigation\* ☒ Statewide

OR

For the following specific counties, parishes, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas.

Please see Cover Letter.

## 12. Mitigation Plan Information\*

a. Mitigation Plan Expiration Date August 23, 2023 b. Type of Plan ☒ Enhanced ☐ Standard

## 13. Other Federal Agency Programs

☐ I do not anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies ☒ I do anticipate requirements from Other Federal AgenciesPlease see **Enclosure C: Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs** for additional information in support of this request\*.

## 14. Findings and Certifications

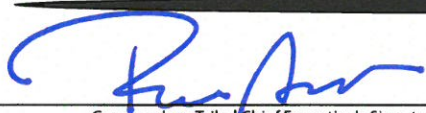
☒ I certify the following:

a. I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local government or Indian tribal government and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary.

b. In response to this incident, I have taken appropriate action under State or tribal law and have directed the execution of the State or Tribal Emergency Plan on Oct 7, 2018 in accordance with the Stafford Act.

c. The State and local governments, or Indian tribal government will assume all applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

## 15. List of Enclosures and Supporting Documentation

☒ Cover Letter ☐ Enclosure A (Individual Assistance)\* ☐ Enclosure B (Public Assistance)\*☐ Enclosure C (Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs) ☐ Enclosure D (Historic and Current Snowfall Data)☐ Additional Supporting Documentation This is a request for expedited processing under 44 CFR §206.36(d).

Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Signature

Oct 10, 2018

Date

If anyone except the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive signs this document, please provide the documentation that establishes that this individual has the legal authority to act on behalf of the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive.

\*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request