



**RON DESANTIS**  
GOVERNOR

August 29, 2019

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

Through: Gracia B. Szczech, Regional Administrator  
Region IV, Federal Emergency Management Agency  
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road  
Atlanta, Georgia 30341

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (the "Stafford Act"), as implemented by 44 CFR §206.35, I request that you declare an emergency for the *State of Florida* as a result of the threat posed by *Hurricane Dorian*. This request is timely under 44 CFR §206.35(a).

I submit this request in anticipation of the impacts of Hurricane Dorian, currently forecast to make landfall as a major hurricane along the eastern coast of Florida with continuing impacts throughout the State. As a large Category 3, and possibly Category 4 hurricane, the storm is expected to reach areas throughout the Florida Peninsula, as well as Northwest Florida. The rains accompanying this hurricane threaten to overwhelm counties along the Gulf Coast which are already experiencing flooding prior to Hurricane Dorian's landfall. Because this storm will impact the entire State and based upon current forecasts and modeling, I request an Emergency Declaration for all 67 counties in Florida.

Furthermore, I request Direct Federal Assistance ("DFA") in order to meet pre-impact, critical emergency protection requirements that are beyond the capability of the State and affected tribal and/or local governments. Additionally, given the severity of the threat, I request financial assistance for eligible Category B expenses under FEMA's Public Assistance program.

**I. 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 §206.35(b)(1).**

**A. Hurricane Dorian**

Hurricane Dorian formed on Saturday, August 24, 2019, and continues strengthening as it moves across the southwestern Atlantic Ocean towards Florida. The current forecast from the National Hurricane Center indicates that a major hurricane landfall in Florida is likely to occur on Monday, and the entire Florida Peninsula and portions of Northwest Florida are within the cone of error. Watches or Warnings from the National Hurricane Center are issued when tropical storm or hurricane conditions are possible within 48 hours and should be issued for portions of Florida by Friday.

A storm of this size and strength has the potential to produce damaging winds over a large portion of the State, extremely dangerous storm surge, heavy rainfall and tornadoes. Impacts could arrive along the Florida East Coast as early as Saturday evening, August 31, and push westward through next Friday, affecting areas also impacted by Hurricane Michael. There is a greater than 70% chance of tropical storm force winds to impact much of the Florida East Coast between Fort Lauderdale and Daytona Beach, including the downtown Orlando area.

As of August 29, 2019, the forecast from the National Weather Service indicates Hurricane Dorian's track has the potential to cross over the State of Florida and into the Gulf of Mexico and is expected to curve northwards towards Florida's Northwestern counties. Hurricane Dorian is expected to make a second landfall with tropical or hurricane force winds in and near the counties previously severely impacted by Hurricane Michael.

**B. Hurricane Michael**

Hurricane Michael impacted Northwest Florida counties on October 11, 2018. As the State nears the one-year anniversary, less than \$300 million has been obligated for Public Assistance with over \$3 billion in damages estimated.

### **C. Rainfall and Flooding**

In August, Florida has experienced a large amount of rainfall that has adversely impacted counties along the Gulf Coast. We have received requests from multiple counties to perform Individual Assistance PDAs to capture the damage incurred by flooding.

Rainfall amounts in excess of 5-10 inches is forecast from the National Weather Service for much of the State associated with Dorian. Rainfall amounts over the past 30 days have been above normal for this time of year across the majority of the State, with many areas receiving in excess of 10 to 30 inches of rainfall, which is 8-12 inches above normal. Flooding impacts have been reported within the past 14 days from Bay, Taylor, Dixie, Levy, Marion, Citrus, Polk, Hardee, DeSoto, Pasco, Sarasota, Manatee and Palm Beach Counties. Given the saturated grounds, a tropical system affecting Florida could quickly create urban and riverine flooding conditions and exacerbate ongoing flooding conditions around the State.

On August 19, 2019, we performed preliminary damage assessments for the recent storms. For Taylor County, 25 homes were reported as incurring major damage with 24 homes incurring 14 minor, narrowly missing the threshold for a Small Business Administration Loan. The preliminary damage assessment performed by the State in conjunction with SBA resulted in 16 homes sustaining major damage and 63 homes sustaining minor damage, also narrowly missing the threshold for an SBA declaration.

Therefore, Hurricane Dorian is expected to impact all 67 counties in the State of Florida.

Florida is still recovering from the impacts of the past three extremely active hurricane seasons. The State is still actively recovering from Hurricanes Hermine, Matthew, Irma, and Michael. Therefore, the severity of the damage expected from Hurricane Dorian is beyond the capability of the State and affected local governments.

## **II. The Situation Requires Supplementary Federal Emergency Assistance to Save Lives and to Protect Property, Public Health and Safety, or to Lessen or Avert the Threat of a Disaster- 44 CFR §206.35(b)(2).**

The forecast from the National Weather Service indicates Hurricane Dorian's track has the potential to cross over the State of Florida, impacting all 67 counties. It is currently forecast to impact Florida as a potential Category 4 hurricane.

Storm surge heights could reach 6-12 feet along much of the Florida East Coast, including Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, Brevard, Volusia, and Flagler Counties, with 4-8 feet possible along the remainder of the Florida East Coast, including downtown Jacksonville. Above normal tides in the region due to lunar effects (known as King Tide) will likely increase the magnitude of coastal flooding and erosion and will produce coastal flooding impacts well before hurricane landfall. These tides could also slow the recession of surge impacts. These storm surge heights could produce similar damage to Hurricane Matthew (DR-4283) for Brevard and Volusia Counties, but will exceed Hurricane Michael impacts for the Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches, producing damage not seen since the 2004 hurricane season.

Rainfall amounts in excess of 5-10 inches is forecast from the National Weather Service for much of the State associated with Dorian. Rainfall amounts over the past 30 days have been above normal for this time of year across the majority of the State, with many areas receiving in excess of 10 to 30 inches of rainfall, which is 8-12 inches above normal. Flooding impacts have been reported within the past 14 days from Bay, Taylor, Dixie, Levy, Marion, Citrus, Polk, Hardee, DeSoto, Pasco, Sarasota, Manatee and Palm Beach Counties. Given the saturated grounds, a tropical system affecting Florida could quickly create urban and riverine flooding conditions and exacerbate ongoing flooding conditions around the State.

### **III. Confirmation That the Governor Has Taken Appropriate Action Under Law and Directed the Execution of the State Emergency Plan- 44 CFR §206.35(c)(1)**

On August 28, 2019, Executive Order No. 19-189 was issued declaring a State of Emergency for Baker, Bradford, Brevard, Broward, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Glades, Hendry, Highlands, Indian River, Lake, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Nassau, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Putnam, Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Volusia, and Union counties. By this Executive Order, I designated the Director of the Division of Emergency Management as the State Coordinating Officer for the duration of this emergency and directed him to execute the State's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and other response, recovery, and mitigation plans necessary to cope with the emergency.

On August 29, 2019, Executive Order No. 19-190 was issued declaring a State of Emergency for all 67 counties in the State.

**IV. Information Describing the State and Local Efforts and Resources Which Have Been or Will Be Used to Alleviate the Emergency 44 CFR §206.35(c)(2)**

On August 29, 2019, the State Emergency Response Team was activated to a Level 2 with all Emergency Support Functions fully staffed. It is anticipated that on August 30, 2019, the State Emergency Response Team will be activated to a Level 1. At the local level, 15 counties, have already declared local states of emergency, with other counties expected to declare emergencies later today. Additionally, depending on the track of the storm, a number of counties are expected to issue a mandatory evacuation for their coastal communities.

Across the State, utility companies are coordinating through mutual aid agreements. Hospitals and assisted living facilities are preparing for the possible loss of power. The fuels industry is preparing for limited supplies. Currently, 2,500 National Guard servicemen have been activated with the potential for more. The State Emergency Response Team's Search and Rescue Support Function has identified available resources and are preparing to deploy for emergency life-safety missions, and the Air Operations Branch is mobilizing.

The State is currently pre-positioning response assets to ensure optimal response time post-event. The Florida Division of Emergency Management is deploying 20 Recovery personnel pre-storm to provide guidance on procurement, contracting, and documentation gathering. The personnel will be placed in each county anticipating impact. The State is currently supporting 190 mission requests for the Dorian response and that number is expected to grow substantially in the coming days.

**V. Information Describing other Federal agency efforts and resources which have been or will be used in responding to this incident 44 CFR §206.35(c)(3)**

The State Coordinating Officer requested that the following Federal agencies send a representative to the State Emergency Operations Center:

- Army Corps of Engineers;
- Coast Guard;
- Department of Transportation;
- Department of Agriculture;
- Environmental Protection Agency;

- Department of Energy;
- Department of Housing and Urban Development;
- Department of Health and Human Services;
- Department of Justice;
- Department of Homeland Security; and
- Department of Defense.

Coordination with other Federal agencies is ongoing.

**VI. Identification of the Type and Extent of Additional Federal Aid Required 44 CFR §206.35(c)(4)**

In order to save and protect lives, I request DFA in the form of personnel, equipment, and supplies. Specifically, I request the following DFA:

- Power / generators – due to the widespread impact of this storm, substantial power outages are expected. State and local governments, in coordination with the power companies, do not have the resources to meet the expected power needs.
- Dewatering / pumps – due to the expected widespread flooding in waterlogged counties, pumps are needed. State and local governments do not have the resources to meet those dewatering needs.
- Shelter support – due to the expected widespread impact, State and local governments, in conjunction with the National Guard, do not have the resources to fully support the various types of shelters are needed.
- Search and rescue teams – due to its expected impact as a major hurricane, search and rescue teams will need to be prepositioned along the expected impact path of the storm, both on the Atlantic coast and Northwest Florida. State and local resources cannot be in two places at once.
- Emergency berm construction – due to the substantial storm surge and forecasted rains expected, emergency berm construction may be needed in many areas of the State. State and local resources cannot be expected to meet all the other needs along with emergency berm construction.
- Food, water, and additional consumables as needed – due to the statewide impact, affecting millions of Florida Citizens, State and local resources following four hurricanes in the last three years have been severely strained.

Additionally, I request financial assistance in the form of reimbursement for eligible emergency protective measures (Category B) expenses under FEMA's Public Assistance Program.

In support of the request for emergency protective measures, to be included in the emergency declaration, I provide the following:

- This storm is expected to be a Category 4 hurricane when it strikes the State. We expect substantial damage to trees, structures, and other critical infrastructure along the path of this hurricane.
- Storm surge heights could reach 6-12 feet along much of the Florida East Coast. Above normal tides in the region due to lunar effects (known as King Tide) will likely increase the magnitude of coastal flooding and erosion and will produce coastal flooding impacts well before hurricane landfall. These storm surge heights could produce similar damage to Hurricane Matthew (DR-4283) for Brevard and Volusia Counties, but will exceed Hurricane Michael impacts for the Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches, producing damage not seen since the 2004 hurricane season.
- Any shift in the forecasted track to the south could trigger the evacuation of millions of people along the East Coast of Florida.

## VII. Conclusion

I have designated the 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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Ron DeSantis', is written over a horizontal blue line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Ron DeSantis  
Governor

Enclosures:  
OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
**REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION**  
**MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY**

OMB Control Number 1660-0009  
Expires 09/30/2019

1. Request Date \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

<p>2a. Name of State (as defined in Stafford Act 102, 42 U.S.C. § 5122) or Indian tribal government requesting declaration.</p> <p>State of Florida</p>	<p>2b. Population (as reported by 2010 Census) or estimated population of Indian tribal government's damaged area(s). <u>18,801,310</u></p>
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<p>3. Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Name</p> <p>The Honorable Ron DeSantis, Governor</p>	<p>4. Designation of State or Tribal Coordinating Officer upon declaration (if available) and phone number</p> <p>Director Jared Moskowitz - FL Division of Emergency Management (850) 413-9969</p>
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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 Aug. 28, 2019 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     Snowstorm  
 (rain, high water, wind-driven, rain, hail, lightning)     (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 for details.

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 for details.

10. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment\*

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

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

Public Assistance    Dates Performed    Requested August 29, 2019    Start August 29, 2019    End \_\_\_\_\_

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

This is a pre-landfall request for an Emergency Declaration for 67 counties in the State of Florida, due to anticipated impacts from Hurricane Dorian which is forecast to make landfall in Florida as a Major Hurricane. Extensive wind damage is expected along the Atlantic Coast from wind and storm surge, extensive flooding in waterlogged areas of the western Peninsula, and continuing impacts on the Gulf Coast and Northwest Florida where Hurricane Michael made landfall in October 2018.

11. Programs and Areas Requested

Individual Assistance  N/A     Individuals and Households Program     Crisis Counseling Program     Disaster Unemployment Assistance  
 All     Disaster Case Management     Disaster Legal Services     Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance

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).

N/A

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.

Based on current forecasts and modeling, I request an Emergency Declaration for emergency protective measures for all 67 counties in the state of Florida. Extensive damage is expected along the Atlantic Coast from wind and storm surge, extensive flooding in waterlogged areas of the western Peninsula, and continuing impacts along the Gulf Coast and Northwest Florida.

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

According to the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Tribal Land Map, the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes are located in the requested counties.

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:

- Power / generators; Dewatering / pumps; Shelter support; Search and rescue teams; Emergency berm construction, Food, water, and additional consumables as needed.

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).

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.

N/A

12. Mitigation Plan Information\*

a. Mitigation Plan Expiration Date August 24, 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 Agencies

Please 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:

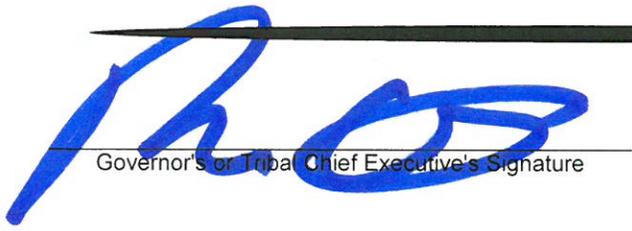
a. I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local government or Indian tribal government and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary.

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 August 28, 2019 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 \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Signature

29 Aug 19  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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