



**RON DESANTIS**  
GOVERNOR

September 4, 2019

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

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

RE: Request for a Supplemental Emergency Declaration,  
Emergency Work (Category B)  
Hurricane Dorian

Dear Mr. President:

On August 29, 2019, 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 requested that you declare an emergency for the State of Florida as a result of the threat posed by Hurricane Dorian.

On August 30, 2019, you issued an Emergency Declaration and authorized the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to provide appropriate assistance for required emergency measures (FEMA-3419-EM). Specifically, you authorized FEMA to provide direct federal assistance (emergency protective measures - Category B) for all 67 counties in the State of Florida, under the Public Assistance program at 75 percent federal funding.

The Emergency Declaration also stated that "[a]dditional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the state and warranted by the results of further evaluation."

Given the very real threat that Hurricane Dorian posed to Florida, I submit this request for financial assistance for eligible Category B expenses under FEMA's Public Assistance program for the State of Florida and twenty-four counties. Starting on August 28, 2019, the State of Florida, and its counties, incurred substantial emergency protective measures in order to save lives, to protect property, public health and safety, as well as lessening or averting the threat of a catastrophic impact by Hurricane Dorian throughout the State of Florida. As of this date, the State of Florida has incurred approximately \$157.6 million in Category B emergency protective measures and the counties have incurred approximately \$39.7 million for a total of \$197.3 million.

**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**

On August 24, 2019, Hurricane Dorian formed off in the Caribbean Sea. On August 28, 2019, I issued Executive Order No. 19-189, declaring a state of emergency in 27 counties due to the projected forecast by the National Hurricane Center that Hurricane Dorian would make landfall as major hurricane. On August 29, 2019, I issued Executive Order No. 19-190, declaring a state of emergency in all 67 counties because the storm was forecast to cross the Florida peninsula and make a second landfall in Northwest Florida. By my Executive Order, I directed the State Coordinating Officer to execute the State's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan to cope with this emergency. The State Coordinating Officer, in conjunction with the 67 county emergency management directors, started implementing emergency protective measures to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety.

Hurricane Dorian traveled across the eastern Caribbean towards Florida before stalling over the Northern Bahamas. Hurricane Dorian strengthened to a Category 5 Hurricane with maximum sustained winds exceeding 180 mph and gusts over 200 mph. The National Hurricane Center forecasted potential landfall on Florida's Atlantic Coast as a Category 5 Hurricane. Hurricane Dorian had been directly off Florida's Atlantic Coast for two days.

On September 3, 2019, Flagler County and St. Johns County both reported that its sand dunes had been over washed by waves driven by Dorian. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection expects coastal damage similar to the damage caused by Hurricane Matthew because the coastline has not yet recovered from the impacts of previous hurricanes.

On September 3, 2019, Hurricane Dorian started moving northwards along Florida's Atlantic Coast. National Hurricane Center currently forecasts Hurricane Dorian will slowly travel along Florida's Atlantic Coast for approximately 48 hours. As it travels the Atlantic Coast, storm surge is projected to be 4-7 feet from Martin to Nassau County. Additionally, waves may be up to 10 feet high in certain areas of Florida's coast. The storm surge is expected to affect the St. John's River, causing riverine flooding in that basin. Winds began to impact the river's flow starting Wednesday morning with heavy rainfall possibly beginning as early as today. Flooding concerns to amplify through the day on Wednesday in Duval, Clay, and St. Johns counties.

On September 4, 2019, Hurricane Dorian remained a Category 2 Hurricane and continued to parallel the Florida coastline, moving north-northwest at 8 mph. There were storm surge warnings, hurricane warnings, and watches along the coast from Nassau to Brevard counties. There were also coastal flood warnings for the St. Johns River and its tributaries in inland Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Putnam, and Flagler counties.

## **B. Hurricane Matthew**

This is the fourth consecutive hurricane season in which the State has been impacted by severe storms. The same areas of the state impacted by Hurricane Matthew in 2016 are being impacted by Hurricane Dorian. Hurricane Matthew impacted the following coastal and inland counties: St. Lucie, Indian River, Brevard, Volusia, Flagler, Duval, Nassau, Clay, St. Johns, Bradford, Broward, Palm Beach, Putnam, Seminole, and Sumter counties. It is expected that Hurricane Dorian will impact coastal and inland counties in a similar manner.

## **C. Hurricanes Michael, Irma and Hermine**

Overall, the State of Florida has incurred approximately \$25.1 million in total costs for Hurricane Hermine, \$268 million for Hurricane Matthew, \$730 million for Hurricane Irma, and \$1.2 billion for Hurricane Michael. Overall, the counties incurred approximately \$65.6 million in total costs for Hurricane Hermine, \$336.6 million for Hurricane Matthew, \$1.2 billion for Hurricane Irma, and total county costs for Hurricane Michael are being developed.

Of the total costs for the counties, Category B costs accounted for approximately \$8.5 million in for Hermine, \$70 million for Matthew, and \$497 million for Irma. This does not include the Category B costs incurred by state agencies in the last three storm seasons.

## **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).**

In the preparation for the predicted forecasts and models of the potential catastrophic consequences of Hurricane Dorian, the State of Florida and its counties required supplementary federal emergency assistance. To date, the State of Florida and all of its counties have incurred up to approximately \$197.3 million in Category B emergency protective measure expenses preparing for this storm. If Florida becomes eligible to request a Major Disaster Declaration pursuant to 44 CFR §206.36 for Hurricane Dorian impacts, all of the incurred Category B expenses would be eligible Category B expenses under FEMA's Public Assistance program.

## **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, I issued Executive Order No. 19-189 which directed the State Coordinating Officer to execute the State's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan to cope with this emergency. On August 29, 2019, I issued Executive Order No. 19-190, which declared a state of emergency in all 67 counties. Therefore, appropriate action has been taken. In taking appropriate action, the State of Florida and its counties, with assistance and guidance from FEMA, have incurred eligible Category B expenses under FEMA's Public Assistance program.

**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 28, 2019, the start of the preparation for Hurricane Dorian, the State started pre-positioning response assets to ensure optimal response time post-event. On August 29, 2019, the State Coordinating Officer activated the State Emergency Operations Center to a Level 2 with all Emergency Support Functions fully staffed. On August 30, 2019, the State Coordinating Officer activated the State Emergency Operations Center to a Level 1. As of August 31, 2019, 56 of 67 individually declared local states of emergency.

Since August 28, 2019, the Florida Division of Emergency Management deployed 19 Recovery personnel pre-storm to provide guidance on procurement, contracting, and documentation gathering in order to help communities that could be impacted by Hurricane Dorian. The State supported 1,244 mission requests for the Hurricane Dorian response. The National Guard was activated. The State Emergency Response Team's Search and Rescue Support Function identified available resources and had been preparing to deploy for emergency life-safety missions. The Air Operations Branch was also prepared to mobilize.

As of this date, state agencies have incurred approximately \$157.6 million in eligible Category B expenses, and all 67 counties have incurred approximately \$39.7 million. As of the date of this request, the State of Florida has expended over \$197.3 million on costs constituting emergency protective measures alone.

Additionally, I have activated more than 4,000 members of the National Guard. The following are resources requested through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact:

- 2-person EMAC A-Team to support Disaster Operations from California
- One Type III All Hazard Incident Management Team from Virginia
- One Type III All-Hazard Incident Management Team from Ohio
- Five additional Type III All-Hazard Incident Management Teams
- One State Logistics Section Chief from California
- 5 Advanced Life Support Ambulance Strike Teams from Tennessee
- 10 additional Ambulance Strike Teams
- Nurse Strike Teams from Mississippi and Kentucky for Special Needs Sheltering
- 10 additional Nurse Strike Teams for Special Needs Sheltering
- Staff support from California for donations management in the local EOCs and a Donations Management Team to support field operations.
- Additional staff support from California for donations management in the local EOCs
- 8 Type III Urban Search & Rescue Teams
- 2 Type II Urban Search & Rescue Teams
- 4 Type I Swift Water Rescue Teams



- Human Services Branch Director from Arizona to support State Emergency Operations Center Operations
- Mass Care Liaisons from Maine and Utah
- 3 additional Mass Care Liaisons
- 20 High Water Clearance Vehicles
- 10 Medical Task Forces
- Three personnel to support State Fuel Operations
- Four National Guard multi-purpose BN Task Forces to support security and humanitarian assistance
- Two Individual Assistance specialists to assist with Recovery Operations
- Five Public Assistance Specialists to assist with Recovery Operations
- One Truck Company or equivalent from Alabama
- 3 UH-60s with HART Teams
- 5 UH-60s, 4 UH-72s and 2 CH-47s from Mississippi
- 2 UH-60s and 1 CH-47 from Texas
- 2 HH-60s from Wisconsin
- 2 UH-60s from Tennessee
- 1 HH-60 from Oregon
- 2 UH-60s from Connecticut
- One Type III 10 person EOC Support Team
- 2 Commercial Satellite with Voice and Data from the National Guard
- NG Sustainment capability (1 x FSC or equivalent) for humanitarian relief for Hurricane Dorian

**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 numerous Federal agencies send a representative to the State Emergency Operations Center. Coordination with Federal agencies remains ongoing.

The following resources were requested through Federal Resource Request Form (RRF) process:

- 6 Type 1 Urban Search and Rescue Teams with Water Capabilities
- 6,560,000 Shelf Stable Meals
- 9,000,000 liters of water
- 12 Type 1 Urban Search & Rescue Teams
- Power packs to support critical infrastructure
- Coast Guard Punt Boats

- Federal Public Health and Medical support for multiple sites
- 140 infant/toddler kits for health and safety needs
- 9,000,000 liters of water
- Deployment of AmeriCorps Disaster Response Teams (A-DARTs) – 150 members total
- Activation of the National Ambulance Contract
- 4,500 cots to supplement state resources for sheltering
- Lite and Standard Node Communications packages. COMAIR-Deployable Modular packages for up to 40 users.

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

In order to properly prepare, save and protect lives, I submit this request for a Supplemental Emergency Declaration and request financial assistance in the form of reimbursement for emergency protective measures (Category B) expenses under FEMA's Public Assistance Program for the State of Florida and the following twenty-four counties: Brevard, Broward, Clay, Collier, Duval, Flagler, Glades, Highlands, Hendry, Indian River, Lake, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Nassau, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Putnam, Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie, and Volusia.

**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,



Ron DeSantis  
Governor of the State of Florida