



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

July 31, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Through: Ms. Gracia Szczech, Regional Administrator
FEMA Region IV
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30341

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 501(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 C.F.R. § 206.35, I request that you declare an emergency for the State of North Carolina as a result of the forecasted approach of Hurricane Isaias.

The National Weather Service projects that this storm will have significant impacts to the State of North Carolina as a Hurricane, as cited in the National Weather Service statement/forecast issued on July 31, 2020 (attached).

In response to the situation, I have taken appropriate action under state law and declared a state of emergency on July 31, 2020. As part of that declaration, I directed the execution of the state emergency operations plan, in accordance with Section 501(a) of the Stafford Act. The emergency area under the declaration is for all 100 counties in North Carolina and includes the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians.

Pursuant to 44 C.F.R. § 206.35, I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and affected local governments, and that supplementary Federal assistance is necessary to save lives and to protect property, public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a disaster.

The need to prepare for and respond to a potential weather event like Hurricane Isaias in the midst of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic requires increased planning and preparation in order to protect the public health and public safety of people in North Carolina. Given those additional challenges, I am requesting direct federal assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property such as generators, food, water, shelter supplies, evacuation assistance, non-congregate and congregate shelter assistance, medical assistance, swift water rescue teams, urban search and rescue (USAR) teams, technical assistance, and other response measures. In the last 24 months, state and local emergency management agencies have responded to the unprecedented and on-going COVID-19 global pandemic, six federally declared major disaster declarations: the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020; severe storms, tornadoes and flooding in February 2020; Hurricane Dorian in September 2019; Tropical Storm Michael in October 2018; Hurricane Florence in September 2018; and a tornado in Guilford and Rockingham Counties in April 2018. I declared a state disaster declaration in January 2020 and July 2019 for major flooding from heavy rains in multiple counties. Furthermore, planning for the upcoming Republican National Convention has also caused a drain on available state and local emergency management resources in order to provide support for that event.

I am requesting Public Assistance-Category B, including direct Federal assistance, for the State of North Carolina.

The following information is provided on the nature and amount of State and local resources that have been or will be used to alleviate the conditions of the emergency:

- The State Emergency Response Team (SERT) activated at 8:00 a.m. on July 31, 2020.
- On July 31, 2020, I declared a state of emergency at 4:00 p.m. in response to Hurricane Isaias. See Executive Order No. 154 attached.
- I activated the State Emergency Operations Plan on July 31, 2020.
- One county (Hyde) has already issued an evacuation order and I anticipate additional counties will do so.
- The North Carolina National Guard will activate 120 soldiers/airmen and four (4) armories.
- We anticipate activating more than four (4) swift water rescue teams.
- We anticipate activating at least two (2) urban search and rescue teams.
- We have pre-booked approximately 780 hotel rooms with a 72-hour block for non-congregate sheltering due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The SERT Emergency Services Functional Branch is developing plans to implement a State Medical Support Shelter operation to support local evacuations of medical facilities and special needs populations.
- The SERT Human Services Branch, along with our county partners are developing mass feeding plan, non-congregate sheltering and identifying shelter support teams including for special needs sheltering and general population, and we are getting insight on Agriculture's mortality management plan for animals and logistical requirements of NCEM to support same.
- The SERT Infrastructure Branch is surveying evacuations routes for fuel issues and construction sites that may impede evacuations. They are also providing situational awareness on Duke Energy, Electricities, and Electric Cooperatives plans for responding to power outages. We are also reviewing preparations for all our critical infrastructure and key resources by surveying local water treatment plants, sewer treatments plants, and communication providers to assess their storm preparedness. Preparations are underway to identify needed fuel, equipment, supplies, and personnel for emergency operations and possible evacuations.
- The SERT Logistics Section is bringing in additional purchasing agents, reviewing our contracts for buses to support evacuations, and evaluating an EMAC mission for an EMAC A-Team.
- The Regional Coordination Center-East is developing a Branch Tactical Plan for resources assigned by the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) and has executed the Coastal Regional Evacuation Plan and Sheltering (CRES) and the Know Your Zone Evacuation plan.
- The Regional Coordination Center-Central is developing a Branch Tactical Plan for resources assigned by the SEOC and developing plans for state supported Host Shelters and Non-Congregate shelters per the CRES and SCRS.
- The SERT Risk Management Branch is preparing predictive modeling based on MEOWS and 100-year flood event along most of our coastline to assist with evacuation decisions and timing thereof.
- We anticipate the deployment of CAMETS (Companion Animal Mobile Equipment Trailers) to host shelter operations and Mass Care Support Trailers to assist with sheltering operations.

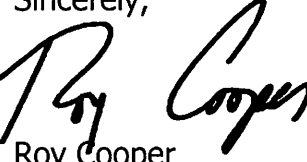
The following information is furnished on the efforts and resources of other Federal agencies, which have been or will be used in responding to the incident.

- A FEMA Liaison officer will be deployed on August 1, 2020.

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I have designated Michael A. Sprayberry as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in damage assessments and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

I appreciate your support and recognition of the threat that this storm poses to the state.

Sincerely,

Roy Cooper

RAC/wmp/swh

Enclosures

FEMA Form 010-0-13