

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

September 13, 2019

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

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

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 (Stafford Act) and 44 C.F.R. § 206.36, I request that you declare a major disaster declaration for the State of North Carolina due to the damages and destruction related to Hurricane Dorian. North Carolina has had three confirmed deaths related to Hurricane Dorian. The storm has inflicted major damage to the State, causing tornadoes and flooding as well as home and building collapses.

The National Weather Service (NWS) Offices in Morehead City and Wilmington, North Carolina each published a summary of the initial impacts from Dorian. The first impacts occurred during the morning hours of September 5, 2019 when several tornadoes touched down in eastern North Carolina. The most damaging tornado occurred in Emerald Isle in Carteret County. This tornado was rated an EF-2 on the Enhanced Fujita scale with estimated winds of 115 mph. Hurricane Dorian made landfall over Cape Hatteras, North Carolina at 8:35 a.m. on September 6, 2019 according to the NWS. As Dorian tracked the North Carolina coast, the NWS tracked hurricane force peak wind gusts of 110 mph at the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, 89 mph at Fort Macon, 85 mph at Beaufort, 82 mph at Cape Lookout and 75 mph at Federal Point. Sustained hurricane force winds of 74 mph were recorded at Oregon Inlet and 83 mph at Nags Head, North Carolina.

The NWS reported rainfall totals of five to ten inches or more along the North Carolina coast. Preliminary rainfall amounts in some areas were 13.74" in Ocracoke (Hyde County); 10.67" in Wilmington (New Hanover County); 8.75" in Columbia (Tyrrell County); 8.68" in Kinston (Lenoir County); 8.00" Mount Olive (Duplin County), 7.75" in Nags Head (Dare County); 7.54" in Elizabeth City (Pasquotank County); 7.36" in New Bern (Craven County); 7.34" in Greenville (Pitt County).

Storm surge values are not official yet, but preliminary estimates reflect the greatest surge along the sound side of the Outer Banks at four to six feet above ground. The most severe storm surge flooding occurred on Ocracoke Island where people were trapped in their attics by flooding from the four-to-seven-foot storm surge, requiring rescue by boats. Response efforts also included airlifting people off the island to shelters on the mainland and providing food and water to people on the island. Emergency Management officials and response teams also brought food and water to residents on the island.

North Carolina experienced major power outages as a result of Dorian. At the peak levels of outage, Duke Energy, Dominion Power, Electric Membership Cooperatives, and municipal electricity providers reported that over 234,000 people were without power. There has been Hurricane Dorian-related damage to state-maintained road infrastructure in Hyde and Dare counties, as well as several other counties in eastern North Carolina.

I am requesting that you declare a major disaster declaration for the following North Carolina counties for Public Assistance: Brunswick, Carteret, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Duplin, Hyde, New Hanover, Pamlico, Pender, Sampson, Tyrrell and Washington.

ACTIONS UNDER STATE LAW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

I took appropriate action under state law and declared a State of Emergency on August 31, 2019. As part of that declaration, I directed the execution of the State Emergency Operations Plan, in accordance with Section 401(a) of the Stafford Act. The emergency area under the declaration included all North Carolina counties.

In response to the NWS forecast issued on September 1, 2019, the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management (NCEM) activated the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and created a WebEOC event. NCEM also took proactive measures by reaching out to counties to warn them of the impending severe weather and informed them of the division's readiness to assist with any Hurricane Dorian relief efforts.

On September 2, 2019, I requested and was granted on September 3, 2019 a federal emergency declaration, FEMA-3423-EM, for Public Assistance, Category B, limited to direct federal assistance. I ordered a mandatory evacuation of all North Carolina islands on September 4, 2019 and issued a waiver to allow for out-of-state reciprocity for medical professionals on September 5, 2019. The State also requested assistance under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact to assist with response and recovery efforts for this incident.

NATURE AND AMOUNT OF STATE AND LOCAL RESOURCES THAT HAVE BEEN, OR WILL BE USED, TO ALLEVIATE THE IMPACT OF THIS INCIDENT. (SEE ALSO FEMA FORM 100-0-13)

At the peak of the event, forty-three counties issued states of emergency for their areas in response to the National Hurricane Center's and the NWS Storm Prediction Center's warnings of dangerous conditions for many areas in the State. Forty-two counties opened up their Emergency Operation Centers. Mandatory evacuation orders were issued in five counties and thirteen issued voluntary evacuation orders. To receive evacuees from coastal and impacted

areas, the State and counties opened seventy-one local shelters, a state-run mass congregate shelter in Durham, North Carolina and one state-run functional and special needs support shelter in Clayton, North Carolina. The state and local shelters housed 4,285 people.

State, local government and non-governmental organizations have conducted many actions in response to Hurricane Dorian. I activated over 500 North Carolina National Guard soldiers. Moreover, extraordinary efforts were taken to ensure the safety of the general public. The following resources were deployed to respond to this event, including but not limited to: thirty-two swift-water rescue crews, six urban search and rescue crews, one heavy rescue crew, five EOC overhead crews, three mobile communications towers, thirty Emergency Medical Service strike crews, nineteen helio-aquatic rescue crews, mass transportation and evacuation assistance, generator/power assistance, water pumping, high water vehicles, All-Hazard Incident Management Teams, aviation support, dam safety engineers, supplemental oxygen, blankets, and sandbags.

Volunteer organizations active for disasters including the American Red Cross, North Carolina Baptist on Mission, and the Salvation Army have been deployed to provide individuals with basic needs including sheltering, feeding and distribution of emergency supplies. As of September 10, those organizations have assisted in providing almost 30,000 meals to people impacted by the storm.

JOINT FEMA/STATE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

In addition to the above-described response operations, recovery activities have commenced for Hurricane Dorian. Those activities include state-only and Joint Federal/State Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA). Both NCEM Staff and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Staff were present for all county PDAs. All requested counties and the State have met their minimum thresholds for a declaration. The current threshold for the State is \$14,303,224.50. The preliminary findings by NCEM, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, and North Carolina Electric Cooperatives (EMC) are as follows:

The costs for NCEM, North Carolina National Guard, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, North Carolina Department of Insurance and North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) activation for emergency protective measures is \$9,976,565 as of September 10, 2019.

The Public Assistance thresholds for the following counties have been met by the initial assessments of losses from NCDOT and EMC facilities located in those areas which qualify these counties for a disaster declaration. Those qualified counties are highlighted. Damage assessments continue for all the counties listed on this chart. It is anticipated that other counties may well meet the threshold.

County	PA Threshold	NCDOT	EMC
Beaufort	\$175,753.12		\$858,341.00
Brunswick	\$395,346.08	\$439,400.00	\$2,437,868.00

Camden	\$36,726.40		\$1,850.00
Carteret	\$244,605.92	\$2,200.00	\$523,029.00
Craven	\$380,898.40		\$220,361.00
Columbus	\$213,800.64		\$530,464.00
Currituck	\$86,652.96	\$421,000.00	\$350.00
Dare	\$124,825.60	\$157,501.00	\$408,122.00
Duplin	\$215,298.40	\$435,250.00	\$161,938.00
Greene	\$78,612.16		
Hoke	\$172,783.36		\$53,600.00
Hyde	\$21,380.80	\$550,000.00	\$470,358.00
Jones	\$37,363.00		\$58,510.00
Lenoir	\$218,941.60	\$124,000.00	\$8,041.00
New Hanover	\$745,814.56	\$319,152.00	
Onslow	\$654,200.96	\$12,925.00	\$712,121.00
Pamlico	\$48,369.92		\$478,778.00
Pasquotank	\$149,632.48	\$15,000.00	\$31,500.00
Perquimans	\$49,507.04		\$24,600.00
Pender	\$192,158.56	\$50,125.00	\$375,512.00
Pitt	\$618,784.64		\$8,722.00
Sampson	\$233,426.08	\$508,400.00	\$923,357.00
Tyrrell	\$16,217.76		
Washington	\$48,679.04		\$92,729.00
Wayne	\$451,252.64	\$133,000.00	

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE DECLARATION FACTORS

As part of the damage assessment process, the state damage assessment teams are evaluating the damages in the impact area and, based on that assessment, I reserve the right to make a request for an Individual Assistance declaration.

GOVERNMENT RESOURCES OVERWHELMED--DISASTER HISTORY

The State of North Carolina has a strong Emergency Management Division, with Individual Assistance, Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation, and Resiliency programs. However, the State has been coping with a number of recent disasters, both Federal and State, which have pressed our capabilities and resources. In the last 18 months, state and local emergency management agencies have responded to the following three federally declared major disasters: Tropical Storm Michael in October 2018, Hurricane Florence in September 2018, and a tornado in Guilford and Rockingham Counties in April 2018. In addition, emergency management officials have

responded to mudslides, fires and flooding which have also exerted significant state resources over the past three years.

HISTORY OF EVENTS:

- a. Hurricane Matthew devastated over half of the state in 2016, resulting in a Stafford Act declaration requiring in excess of \$100 million dollars of State cost share for both Public and Individual Assistance.
- b. In May 2017, there was a straight-line winds and severe weather event in Sampson County, which resulted in a US Small Business Administration (SBA) and State Type I Individual Assistance declaration for that County. Estimated Cost - \$650,000.
- c. On August 16, 2017, a State Type I disaster was declared for the Town of Windsor, due to Tropical Storm Julia. Estimated Cost - \$66,704.66.
- d. On November 15, 2017, a State Type I disaster was declared for the City of Eden for a straight-line wind event. Estimated Cost - \$186,301.
- e. On November 22, 2017, a State Type I disaster was declared for Ashe, Avery, Caldwell, Watauga and Wilkes counties for flooding and heavy winds. This also resulted in an US SBA disaster declaration. Estimated Costs - \$516,000.
- f. In fiscal year 2017, the State suffered from two significant fires resulting in Stafford Act Fire Management Assistance Grant Declarations. Combined Cost Estimate - \$858,992.29
- g. On April 24, 2018, a State Type I disaster was declared for the Village of Cedar Creek and the Town of Tryon for the effects of Tropical Storm Nate. Estimated Cost - \$44,410.69
- h. In April 2018, Guilford and Rockingham counties were impacted by a tornado, leading to Federal Individual Assistance Declaration. The Other Needs Assistance share was \$324,173.19.
- i. Hurricane Florence, one of the worst storms in our state's history, made landfall in North Carolina on September 14, 2018. A Stafford Act declaration for both Individual Assistance and Public Assistance was issued. The extent of the damage is still being determined, but damage costs have already exceeded \$2 billion.
- j. On October 10, 2018, Tropical Storm Michael hit North Carolina; as a result, the State received another Stafford Act declaration for Public Assistance. Recovery is ongoing, but damage costs have exceeded \$23 million.

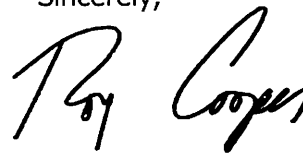
I have determined that this incident with Hurricane Dorian will be of such severity that effective recovery is beyond the capabilities of the State and local governments and that supplementary Federal assistance is necessary. The State has expended an extraordinary amount of money on Stafford Act and non-Stafford Act disasters in the previous three years, as well as the current fiscal year. Serious remaining impacts still need to be addressed; therefore, I am respectfully requesting that you issue a Major Disaster Declaration to include Public Assistance for Categories A (debris removal) and B (emergency protective measures), and C-G (Permanent Work) for Brunswick, Carteret, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Duplin, Hyde, New Hanover, Pamlico, Pender, Sampson, Tyrrell and Washington counties.

I certify that for this major disaster, the State and local governments will assume all applicable non-federal shares of cost required by the Stafford Act.

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

I appreciate your support and recognition of the continued impact that this storm poses to North Carolina and its people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roy Cooper

RAC/wp/swh

Enclosures:
Executive Orders No. 101 & 104
NWS Reports
FEMA Form 010-0-13