



HENRY McMMASTER
GOVERNOR

September 9, 2018

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

Through: Gracia B. Szczech
Regional Administrator, Region IV
Federal Emergency Management Agency
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 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 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.35, I request that you declare an emergency for the State of South Carolina due to the anticipated effects from Hurricane Florence. Hurricane Florence is forecast to be a large, powerful hurricane with the potential to cause widespread, catastrophic damages to South Carolina. Our most current models show the potential for significant storm surge, widespread power outages, hundreds of homes inundated by water, sectors of infrastructure impacted for long periods of time, and many other effects that will tax and surpass our state and local capabilities.

In response to the situation, I consulted with all coastal counties, took appropriate action under state law, and directed the execution of the State Emergency Operations Plan on September 8, 2018, as well as declared a State of Emergency to exist throughout the State of South Carolina, in accordance with Section 501 (a) of the Stafford Act. We are requesting an incident period beginning September 8, 2018. In addition, due to the significant strain for four major disasters over the past four years, ongoing recovery operations in half of South Carolina's counties, and the projected magnitude of Hurricane Florence, I request that you grant one hundred percent federal funding for this event.

The potential storm surge, strong winds, and rainfall pose threats beyond state capability to manage including need for widespread search and rescue, rescue from swift water, long term sheltering operations, air operations in support of life saving and life sustaining missions, assistance with transportation of vulnerable populations, support for areas without power or drinking water, and other unforeseen consequences of the historic hurricane to which the state is currently vulnerable. Therefore, it is necessary for me to request federal resources be made available to the state of South Carolina as the state responds to this historic event. As such, we request Public Assistance Categories A and B (Debris Removal and Emergency Protective Measures), including Direct Federal Assistance, for the Catawba Indian Nation and the counties of Abbeville, Aiken, Allendale, Anderson, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Cherokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Florence, Georgetown, Greenville, Greenwood, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Kershaw, Lancaster, Laurens, Lee, Lexington, Marion, Marlboro, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Richland, Saluda, Spartanburg, Sumter, Union, Williamsburg, and York.

To ensure that the State is able to protect our most vulnerable populations, areas, and resources, we are asking for federal support in several areas. The State of South Carolina is being very proactive in our approach to Hurricane Florence and anticipates FEMA will mirror our stance. In addition to Public Assistance Categories A and B, we are requesting Direct Federal Assistance in the forms of an Incident Management Assistance Team, ground transportation management assistance, air transportation support, medical evacuation transportation, generators (to provide for the energy needs of critical facilities and associated operations in the impacted area after the storm), water and food operations, mass care technical and logistical support, search and rescue (inland areas not under the Coast Guard's jurisdictions), swift water rescue, and debris removal to support response and initial recovery operations in the impacted areas.

While significant rain and winds are forecast, much of the support that will be provided has yet to be requested. It is critical that the State have access to federal resources and support to assist in response operations, so as to rapidly deploy to meet immediate life and property saving missions. The following information is furnished on the nature and amount of State and local resources that have been or will be used to alleviate the conditions of this emergency in accordance with our Hurricane Plan:

1. The South Carolina Emergency Management Division is coordinating daily with the National Weather Service, National Hurricane Center, local jurisdictions and state agencies in regard to storm weather forecasts and projected impacts in terms of rainfall, high winds, storm surge and flooding in the coastal areas and along rivers within the State.
2. The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) augmented operations and will activate Emergency Support Functions as of September 9, 2018. The SEOC has been and will continue to do the following: monitor storm track and interface with localities and state agencies projected to be impacted by the storm; disseminate the necessary public information and guidance to the public and respond to media inquiries; mobilize

- and pre-stage resources to respond effectively to local and regional requests for assistance; and coordinate with partner states aligned with our mutual aid compact for additional resources.
3. The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) crews in each county have been gathering and preparing debris-clearing equipment, including heavy equipment, chainsaws, and other items used to remove tree limbs and debris from roadways and bridges. Crews also readied equipment such as signs and barricades to be put in place on roads and bridges that could become washed out.
 4. State law enforcement agencies, and every city and county in the affected areas of the State, is in the process of implementing a number of protective actions to address and mitigate anticipated life-safety situations precipitated by the effects of the storm.
 5. The South Carolina National Guard will mobilize assets consisting of personnel and equipment. The South Carolina National Guard will pre-stage personnel to support anticipated requests for assistance in regard to evacuation of citizens, rescue missions, traffic control, security, debris clearance, and other response and recovery missions as required.
 6. The Department of Social Services, American Red Cross and other Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) members will mobilize to support the opening of shelters starting as early as September 10, 2018 in support of coastal evacuations and local shelter operations as appropriate.
 7. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control is prepared to establish special medical needs shelters. It is possible that several hundred individuals could seek the advanced level of care provided in a special medical needs shelter as flood waters advance.
 8. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control has been in communication with its licensed facilities and is working with the facilities to anticipate any unmet needs or any issues that may arise with vulnerable populations.
 9. The Office of Regulatory Staff is coordinating with and monitoring the utilities in regard to increased readiness activities. Private non-profit electrical and telephone utility cooperatives, as well as private utilities, are mobilizing in preparation for this event.
 10. Included are HAZUS (Hazards US Multi-Hazard) hurricane event reports from a storm with similar track. This hurricane followed a similar path to Florence and have been used to assess potential impacts to South Carolina.

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11. Attached are both the FEMA Form 010-0-13 and the most recent 5 day forecast cone from the National Hurricane Storm Center

These storms will have significant impacts not only on our State but the entire east coast. We are aware of the tasks ahead of both us and our neighbors. Thank you for your continued leadership and consideration of this most important request.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Henry McMaster". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "H" and "M".

Henry McMaster

HM/er

Enclosures: FEMA Form 010-0-13
HAZUS Report
5 Day Forecast Cone Report