

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

February 9, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Through: Ms. Gracia B. Szczech, Regional Administrator  
DHS FEMA Region IV  
3005 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 implemented by 44 C.F.R. § 206.36, I request that you declare a major disaster for the State of North Carolina due to the impacts of Tropical Storm Eta remnants. Impacts were felt in the State on November 12, 2020. The significant amount of damage and other impacts associated with Tropical Storm Eta exceed the local and state capacity to effectively and wholly recover. Accordingly, I am requesting all categories of Public Assistance (PA) for nineteen (19) counties and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) assistance statewide.

Tropical Storm Eta caused major flooding to several major river basins, produced high damaging winds, and even caused several mudslides which led to significant infrastructure damage. Effects from this storm were felt statewide and resulted in widespread power outages, damage to roads and bridges, and damage to water supply lines. Additionally, there was an increased strain on fire departments, emergency medical services and other critical infrastructure and services due to the number of rescues and evacuations. Multiple deaths have been attributed to the storm effects. Many rivers and streams crested at devastating levels, causing flooding and mudslides leaving some people homeless.

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

In accordance with 44 C.F.R. § 206.36, I took appropriate action under state law to respond to this situation. I declared a state of emergency on November 13, 2020 and

directed all state and local government entities and agencies to cooperate in the implementation of the declaration and the execution of the State Emergency Operations Plan. The emergency area under the declaration included all North Carolina counties.

Based on the National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center's forecast the Division of North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) activated the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and created a WebEOC event on November 12, 2020. NCEM also took proactive measures by reaching out to the counties in the State to warn them of the impending severe weather, and inform them of the agency's readiness to assist with any support that may result from the severe weather.

**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 010-0-13)**

Preliminary rain accumulation records from the National Weather Services showed that some areas received over six inches of rain due to Tropical Storm Eta. The EOC via WebEOC lists multiple incidences of mudslides and road washouts. The State faced flood and flash flood watches and warnings for a two-day period as Tropical Storm Eta traversed the State of North Carolina.

Several local governments issued States of Emergency for their areas in response to the State's, and the National Weather Service warnings of dangerous conditions. Congregate and non-congregate shelters were made available and used by people fleeing dangerous conditions or significant damages to their primary residences.

The American Red Cross assisted the State with operating shelters for individuals needing assistance and distribution of emergency meals and supplies. Extraordinary efforts were taken to ensure the safety of the general public during the most dangerous hours of the storm. Emergency rescues and evacuations were performed to protect the lives of North Carolinians. Multiple river basins such as Yadkin, Haw and Neuse Rivers were cresting at near historic levels making roads impassable and causing dangerous conditions for the persons attempting to escape rising flood levels. Swift water rescue crews were activated and assisted in the rescue and evacuation efforts of more than 200 people. Efforts were taken to locate missing persons during the event, in both land based and aquatic conditions. During the event there were six confirmed deaths. Additionally, damage resulted in structures collapsing, flooding and power outages affecting nearly 20,000 residents.

**JOINT FEMA/STATE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENT**

Given the social distancing requirements to reduce the spread of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) initial Preliminary Damage Assessments (hereafter PDAs) were conducted in a virtual manner. Further in person FEMA and State PDAs were conducted between

December 4, 2020 and February 2, 2021. North Carolina Emergency Management and FEMA agree on the results of the PDAs. All requested counties have met their minimum indicator for declaration, with a statewide total of \$20,435,270. This exceeds the minimum state indicator of \$14,779,998.65 by \$5,655,271.35.

County	Threshold	Total	Exceeds By
Alexander	\$ 144,688.55	\$ 4,753,696.00	\$ 4,609,007.45
Alleghany	\$ 43,392.95	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 16,607.05
Ashe	\$ 106,123.09	\$ 115,620.00	\$ 9,496.91
Beaufort	\$ 185,782.51	\$ 216,547.00	\$ 30,764.49
Burke	\$ 353,647.68	\$ 473,977.00	\$ 120,329.32
Caldwell	\$ 322,982.81	\$ 388,898.00	\$ 65,915.19
Davidson	\$ 633,595.42	\$ 728,093.00	\$ 94,497.58
Davie	\$ 160,423.60	\$ 687,947.00	\$ 527,523.40
Duplin	\$ 227,584.45	\$ 254,527.00	\$ 26,942.55
Edgecombe	\$ 219,987.28	\$ 483,253.00	\$ 263,265.72
Hertford	\$ 95,962.41	\$ 143,074.00	\$ 47,111.59
Iredell	\$ 620,209.93	\$ 6,204,207.00	\$ 5,583,997.07
Robeson	\$ 521,913.52	\$ 940,000.00	\$ 418,086.48
Rowan	\$ 538,484.92	\$ 707,500.00	\$ 169,015.08
Sampson	\$ 246,746.59	\$ 332,339.00	\$ 85,592.41
Stokes	\$ 184,389.89	\$ 229,295.00	\$ 44,905.11
Wilkes	\$ 269,732.60	\$ 575,509.00	\$ 305,776.40
Wilson	\$ 316,000.26	\$ 2,822,729.00	\$ 2,506,728.74
Yadkin	\$ 149,399.34	\$ 318,059.00	\$ 168,659.66
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 20,435,270.00</b>	<b>\$ 15,094,222.20</b>

\*State PDA results

## DISASTER HISTORY

The State of North Carolina has a strong Emergency Management Division, with both an Individual and Public Assistance recovery program. However, the State has been inundated with a number of federal and state declared disasters which have strained its capabilities and resources on top of combating a global pandemic. Tropical Storm Eta arrived just barely two weeks after the State suffered nearly \$13 million in damage from Tropical Storm Zeta remnants. Not taking into consideration the statewide COVID-19 declaration over three quarters of the State is recovering from federally declared events that are still open, some with active Joint Field Operations. The damages for those events are far into the billions.

**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. The State suffered from two significant fires, one on November 9, 2016 and one on December 24, 2016, resulting in Stafford Act Fire Management Assistance Grant Declarations. Combined Cost Estimate - \$858,992.29.
- c. In May 2017, there was a straight-line winds and severe weather event in Sampson County, which resulted in a US Small Business Administration (hereafter SBA) and State Type I Individual Assistance declaration for that County. Estimated Cost - \$650,000.
- d. On August 16, 2017, a State Type I disaster was declared for the Town of Windsor, from the effects of Tropical Storm Julia. Estimated Cost - \$66,704.66.
- e. 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.
- f. 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 Cost - \$87,084.
- 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. The State of North Carolina declared disasters for four towns that suffered from the effects from Hurricane Alberto, which caused flooding and mudslides in the Western part of the State. Estimated Cost – \$1.38 million.
- i. Hurricane Florence which has been referred to as a 'Historic Storm' made landfall in the State of North Carolina on September 14, 2018. A major Stafford Act disaster declaration was issued for both Individual and Public Assistance. After insurance PA estimated costs - \$1.32 billion.
- j. On October 10, 2018, Tropical Storm Michael resulted in a Major Disaster Declaration under the Stafford Act for Public Assistance being issued on February 1, 2019. The storm affected twenty-one (21) counties. Estimated Damages Costs - \$29.9 million.

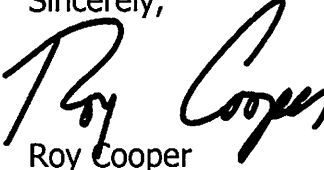
- k. On September 6, 2019, Hurricane Dorian devastated the Outer Banks, and led to twenty-eight counties receiving a Stafford Act Public Assistance Declaration. Hyde County and the contiguous counties received a Type I State Individual Assistance Declaration as a result of damages from Hurricane Dorian. Much of the damage affected areas were still trying to recovery from Hurricane Florence. Estimated Damages Costs - \$113 million.
- l. On March 13, 2020 an Emergency Declaration was issued for COVID-19 followed quickly on March 25, 2020 by a Major Disaster Declaration. COVID-19, a global pandemic, has completely upended everyday life and how North Carolina can effectively recover from disasters. The incident period has been extended indefinitely and costs are growing accordingly.
- m. As a result of a severe weather event on or about February 6, 2020, the State received a Public Assistance declaration under the Stafford Act on May 8, 2020. Eighteen (18) counties were declared given the amount of flooding and damage that resulted. Estimated Costs – \$16 million.
- n. An earthquake occurred near the town of Sparta, North Carolina in Alleghany County on August 9, 2020. It had a magnitude 5.1 which resulted in both a Type I State Declaration and an SBA declaration for Alleghany County as well as the contiguous Counties. Budgeted Costs – \$27 million
- o. Bertie County, as well as the contiguous counties, received an SBA disaster declaration and a Type I State Declaration on August 21, 2020 for IA as a result of Hurricane Isaias and the severe weather and tornadoes that it prompted. Budgeted Costs - \$750,000.
- p. On October 14, 2020 the State received a Stafford Declaration for the impacts of Hurricane Isaias which affected fifteen (15) coastal counties on August 3, 2020. Estimated Damages Cost - \$47 million
- q. Severe Weather from Tropical Storm Eta lead to a State Type I Individual Assistance declaration in Alexander County. Budgeted Costs - \$231,800.

I have determined that this incident is 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 few years, as well as this current fiscal year.

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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 for this recovery process and will provide further information or justification on my behalf.

I appreciate your support and recognition of the continued impact that this Tropical Storm poses to the state.

Sincerely,  
  
Roy Cooper

Enclosures:

Executive Order No. 178  
FEMA Form 010-0-13  
Joint FEMA/State PDA Reports

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 February 9, 2021

**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.

2a. Name of State (as defined in Stafford Act 102, 42 U.S.C. § 5122) or Indian tribal government requesting declaration.  State of North Carolina	2b. Population (as reported by 2010 Census) or estimated population of Indian tribal government's damaged area(s). <u>9,535,483</u>
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3. Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Name Roy Cooper	4. Designation of State or Tribal Coordinating Officer upon declaration (if available) and phone number Michael A. Sprayberry 919-369-4174
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5. Designation of Governor's Authorized Representative or Tribal Chief Executive Representative upon declaration (if available) and phone number  
 Michael A. Sprayberry 919-369-4174

6. Declaration Request For:  Major Disaster (Stafford Act Sec. 401)  Emergency (Stafford Act Sec. 501 (a))

7. Incident Period: Beginning Date November 12, 2020 End Date November 15, 2020 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.

Damage resulted in structure collapse, infrastructure compromise and spurred mudslides, flooding and power outages. As well as, search and rescue efforts and six confirmed deaths. Additional information included in cover letter.

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.

I took appropriate action under state law and declared a state of emergency on Friday, November 12, 2020. As part of that declaration, and subsequent amendments, I directed the execution of the state emergency operations plan, in accordance with Section 401(a) of the Stafford Act. Additional information included in cover letter

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 December 3, 2020    Start December 4, 2020    End February 2, 2021

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

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).

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

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.

Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Beaufort, Burke, Caldwell, Davidson, Davie, Duplin, Edgecombe, Hertford, Iredell, Robeson, Rowan, Sampson, Stokes, Wilkes, Wilson, and Yadkin Counties

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

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:

b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services.

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.

12. Mitigation Plan Information\*

a. Mitigation Plan Expiration Date April 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 November 12, 2020 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

February 9, 2021  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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