



State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

January 25, 2016

Mr. George Cleveland
Inmate No. 357770
Evans Correctional Institute
640 Highway 9 West
Bennettsville, South Carolina 29512

Dear Mr. Cleveland,

Our office received your Freedom of Information Act request for "a copy of the State of Emergency Declaration the Governor presented to the President of the United States during the flooding a couple of months back (of 2015)."

Enclosed are records responsive to your request. Due to the low volume of records, our office will not charge for the costs associated with producing the request as is allowed pursuant to Section 30-4-30(b) of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca Schimsa".

Rebecca Schimsa
Deputy Legal Counsel

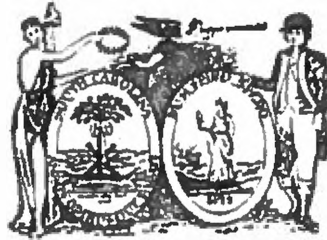
Enclosures

State of South Carolina
Executive Department

FILED

OCT 01 2015

Mark Hammond
SECRETARY OF STATE



Office of the Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.

2015-21

WHEREAS, the National Hurricane Center has determined that the State of South Carolina is presently vulnerable to the effects of a strengthening hurricane, known as Hurricane Joaquin still developing over the Atlantic Ocean, as well as a significant low pressure system of heavy rainfall and flash flooding forecast to impact our state; and

WHEREAS, I have been advised that the heavy rain and flash flooding represent a threat to the safety, security, welfare, and property of citizens in South Carolina, the preparation and response for which require assistance and support from the State.

THEREFORE, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me as Governor, pursuant to the Constitution and Statutes of the State of South Carolina, I hereby declare that a State of Emergency exists in South Carolina and direct that the South Carolina Emergency Operations Plan be placed into effect. I direct that all prudent preparations be taken at the individual, local, and state levels to protect against the possible effects of heavy rain and flash flooding.

FURTHER, I hereby place specified units and/or personnel of the South Carolina National Guard on State Active Duty pursuant to my authority under Section 25-1-1840 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and I will do so by directing the Adjutant General to issue supplemental orders. I further order the utilization of the South Carolina National Guard's personnel with appropriate equipment, at the discretion of the Adjutant General and in coordination with the Director of the South Carolina Emergency Management Division, to take necessary and prudent actions to assist the citizens of this state.

FURTHER, I order that all licensing and registration requirements regarding private security personnel or companies who are contracted with South Carolina security companies in protecting property and restoring essential services in South Carolina be

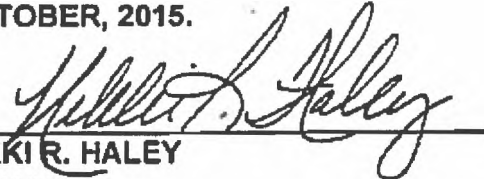
suspended, and SLED shall initiate an emergency registration process for those personnel or companies for a period specified, and in a manner deemed appropriate, by the Chief of SLED.

Further proclamations and regulations deemed necessary to insure the fullest protection of life and property during this state of emergency shall be issued orally by me and thereafter reduced to writing within the succeeding 24-hour period.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

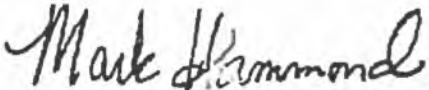


GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF
SOUTH CAROLINA, THIS 1st DAY OF
OCTOBER, 2015.



NIKKI R. HALEY
Governor

ATTEST:



MARK HAMMOND
SECRETARY OF STATE



State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

October 2, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
c/o Gracia Szczech
The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

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 as a result of the anticipated effects from historic rainfall coupled with the effects of Hurricane Joaquin. There is currently a low pressure system settling in over the State that will produce potentially historic rainfall throughout the state over the next five days. The National Weather Service has issued flood watches and warnings that cover every county in the state, and they estimate that rainfall totals over the next five days may exceed 15 inches in many areas of the state.

During this time of tremendous precipitation, the low pressure system is forecast to meet the bands of Category 4 Hurricane Joaquin as the storm passes off the coast of South Carolina. This convergence could potentially result in additional rain fall totals of 10 inches in some areas, making an already life threatening situation considerably worse. This is truly a historic convergence of systems in South Carolina.

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 yesterday, October 1, 2015, 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 yesterday, October 1, 2015.

The potential rainfall poses 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, and other unforeseen consequences of the historic rainfall to which the state is currently vulnerable. Therefore, it is necessary for me to request federal resources be available to the state of South Carolina as the state responds to this historic event. As such, we request Direct Federal Assistance and

Emergency Protective Measures for 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. Prior to requesting any federal asset be deployed in support of our response operations, South Carolina will utilize every available asset and contract to meet the requirements with state and local resources. The State of South Carolina is being very proactive in our approach to Hurricane Joaquin, and anticipate FEMA will mirror our stance. We are requesting Direct Federal Assistance in the forms of an Incident Management Assistance Team, 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.

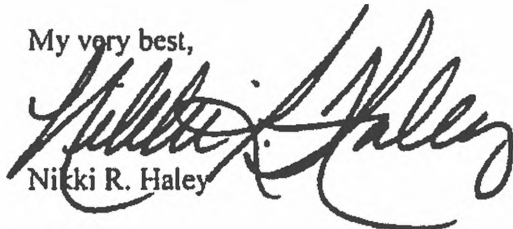
While the rains are forecast and have begun arriving, much of the support that will be provided has yet to be requested. It is critical that the State have access to federal resources to assist in this response operations, so as to rapidly deploy to meet immediate life and property saving missions. The 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 today, October 2, 2015. The State EOC 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 in high flood areas, rescue missions, traffic control, security, debris clearance, and other response and recovery missions as required.
6. The South Carolina Department of Social Services, American Red Cross, and other Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOADs) members will mobilize to support the opening of shelters starting as early as today, October 2, 2015, in support of localized flooding 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 are 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.

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, and are assured of our ability to meet these many challenges together.

My very best,



Nikki R. Haley

NRH/rs

Enclosures

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
**REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION
MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY**

OMB No. 1660-0009 Expires March 31, 2015

1. Request Date Oct. 2, 2015

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.

South Carolina

2b. Population (as reported by 2010 Census) or estimated population of Indian tribal government's damaged area(s)

4,625,401

3. Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Name

Nikki R. Haley

4. Designation of State or Tribal Coordinating Officer upon declaration (if available) and phone number

Kim Stenson, Emergency Management Director, (803) 737-8566

5. Designation of Governor's Authorized Representative or Tribal Chief Executive Representative upon declaration (if available) and phone number

Kim Stenson, Emergency Management Director, (803) 737-8566

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

7. Incident Period:

Beginning Date

End Date

Oct 1, 2015

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

(rain, high water, wind-driven rain, hail, lightning)

☐ Snowstorm

(Must include Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data)

☐ Straight-Line Winds

☐ Tidal Wave

☐ Tornado

☐ Tropical

☐ Tropical Storm

☐ Tsunami

☐ Volcanic Eruption

☐ Winter Storm

Depression

☐ 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.

I request that you declare an emergency declaration for the State of South Carolina to support preparedness and response operations in anticipation of the convergence of a strong low pressure system and Hurricane Joaquin. The entire state is threatened by the historic rainfall and resulting widespread flooding that it predicted. The National Weather Service has issued flood watches in all South Carolina counties.

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.

Under state law and I directed the execution of the State Emergency Operations Plan on October 1, 2015, 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. Dozens of state agencies and voluntary organizations are engaged in preparedness and response activities in anticipation of the historic rainfall.

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 _____ Start _____ End _____

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

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)

N/A

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.

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, York

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

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:

Incident Management Assistance Team, 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.

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

The immediate need for life saving and life sustaining resources exceeds the capacity that exists within local and state resources. Such valuable assets as swift water rescue teams are likely to be needed on a scale not available within the state.

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 October 2018

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 Oct 1, 2015 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)

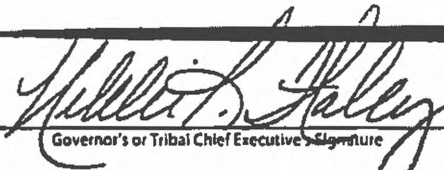


Enclosure D (Historic and Current Snowfall Data)



Additional Supporting Documentation

National Weather Service Hurricane Center Forecast and Watches


Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Signature

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