

Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

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GOVERNOR



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May 21, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Through: George A. Robinson
Regional Administrator
FEMA Region VI
800 North Loop 288
Denton, TX 76209-3698

SENT VIA EMAIL

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 CFR § 206.36, I request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Louisiana as a result of severe weather including tornados that occurred in Louisiana April 24-25, 2019, which devastated several Louisiana communities. The response to the storm has overwhelmed the capabilities of state and local resources. I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and local governments, and that in accordance with 44 CFR § 206.36, supplementary federal assistance is necessary to supplement the efforts and available resources of the state and local governments, disaster relief organizations, and compensation by insurance for disaster related losses.

I am specifically requesting a major Presidential Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance, and all programs for Individual Assistance, for Lincoln, Morehouse and Union Parishes. Specifically, I request the Individual Assistance Programs include the Individual and Households Program, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Crisis Counseling, Disaster Legal Services, Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Program, Disaster Case Management, and the Small Business Administration Disaster Loans Program. I am also requesting Public Assistance (Categories A-G) for the Parishes of Lincoln, Morehouse and Union, and Hazard Mitigation statewide.

From the late evening of Wednesday, April 24, 2019, and continuing through Thursday, April 25, 2019, a strong cold front moved into Louisiana. The cold front caused an outbreak of severe thunderstorms, several tornadoes and strong winds affecting mostly the northern and central portions of the state. Multiple rounds of severe weather developed and moved across the area.

Lincoln Parish was impacted by an EF-3 tornado with peak winds of 145 mph on April 25, 2019 between 1:47am – 2:00am. It traveled a total length of 11.32 miles with a width of 1000 yards. The tornado began just northeast of the intersection of U.S. Highway 80 and Louisiana Highway 818, where it caused isolated tree damage. It continued northeast crossing South Maple Street and intensified. The tornado caused widespread tree damage just south of LA Highway 3012, along Wade Drive, Lind Drive, Robert Street, University Boulevard, and Shelor Drive. Many of these streets were impassable due to the significant number of trees snapped, twisted, and uprooted. Many more trees were downed on LA 3012 before the tornado headed northeast towards Westwood Drive. It uprooted a number of trees onto fraternity houses before it crossed the Kansas City Southern Railroad. The tornado crossed the railroad and bent or uprooted several large light poles and power poles on Louisiana Tech's softball, baseball, and neighboring athletic fields.

The tornado then crossed Tech Drive and damaged a number of dormitories by removing their metal roofs and blowing out windows. It continued northeast and uprooted more trees on the campuses of Louisiana Tech University and Ruston High School. The tornado crossed Greenwood Cemetery where it intensified again and caused severe damage to homes and roads for the next third of a mile. The severe damage started with a large number of trees being debarked with just the stubs of large branches remaining in several areas. Several businesses sustained significant damage to their exterior brick walls and some interior walls. A hotel along Interstate 20 suffered the collapse of its top story's exterior walls. The tornado continued on to severely damage a gas station in between Trenton and Vienna Streets just south of I-20. The tornado crossed I-20 and weakened slightly, but still did considerable roof damage to several businesses along North Service Road East. The tornado continued to weaken and began causing more sporadic wind damage as it headed northeast towards Farmerville Highway. It crossed Farmerville Highway near Timberline Court and uprooted a number of trees before finally lifting near the intersection of Stable Road and Baxter Road.

Louisiana Army National Guard ("LANG"), the City of Ruston, and the Parish solid waste crews cleared roads of debris. Power was difficult to restore due to debris and extensive damages. Approximately 596 tarps were distributed to affected citizens on April 28th, 2019.

Union Parish was impacted by an EF-1 tornado with peak winds of 110 mph on April 25th, 2019 between 2:20am – 2:33am. It traveled a total length of 22.54 miles with a width of 850 yards. The tornado began in the Holmesville community, where it damaged a chicken house near the intersection of Highway 15 and Holmesville Rd. It crossed Highway 15 and uprooted trees along its path to Lake D'Arbonne. Before it crossed the lake, it uprooted several trees, which fell on a home that sustained major structural damage from the fallen trees. After crossing Lake D'Arbonne, it snapped and uprooted trees along McCormick Rd and Fourway Loop Rd. After crossing Highway 2, damage became more intermittent with sporadic limbs broken and trees uprooted until it reached Love Road. There, a more consistent damage path was found where trees were uprooted and snapped. The tornado continued to down trees as it crossed Highway

143 (Arkansas Rd.). It then moved on to uproot and snap trees along Alabama Landing Road and Dean Haile Road before lifting just short of the Upper Ouachita National Wildlife Refuge.

Morehouse was impacted by an EF-2 tornado with peak winds of 112 mph on April 25, 2019 between 2:42am – 3:02am. It traveled a total length of 16.24 miles, with a width of 2000 yards. This tornado began at the marshy backwaters southeast of the Upper Ouachita National Wildlife Refuge. It shifted northeast to the intersection of Martin Trail and N Lake Road, where it snapped several large softwood tree limbs and uprooted several softwood trees. It continued northeast to the intersection of Indian Mound Road and Tram Road, and then to White Arkansas Road, persistently snapping and uprooting large softwood and hardwood trees. As it progressed northeast to Oscar Lum Road, the tornado mowed down a large area of hardwood and softwood trees, where it blocked off a nearby bridge. It then propagated northeast to the intersection of Middlebrooks Road and Oscar Lum Road, snapping large softwood limbs and uprooting several softwood and hardwood trees. This continued as it moved across US Highway 143 to the Arkansas state line.¹

On April 25, 2019, with the front moving through the state and causing multiple tornadoes and destroying dozens of homes and several buildings on the campus of Louisiana Tech University, I took the appropriate action under State law and proclaimed a state of emergency effective immediately for the entire state (62 JBE 2019). I also ordered the execution of the State Emergency Operations Plan in accordance with Section 501(a) of the Stafford Act. A copy of the declaration of the state of emergency is attached.

FATALITIES AND INJURIES

Tragically, the tornado in Lincoln Parish caused two fatalities when a tree fell on a home just south of I-20. A mother and her son were killed upon impact from a tree falling on their home. The loss of life is the most devastating part of the tornado's destructive path.

Further, Lincoln Parish had more storm related injuries. Ruston Fire Department also delivered oxygen bottles to a few residents who were without power. Other injuries were reported from the impact of roof damages and other impacts from falling trees.

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE

In accordance with 44 CFR § 206.48, there are several factors to consider for Individual Assistance:

(1) Concentration of damages

This storm system made landfall in the upper northeast portion of the State, moving directly over Lincoln, Union, and Morehouse Parish.

¹See attach summary from the National Weather Service.

The results of the IA PDA show:

Parish	Affected	Minor	Major	Destroyed
Lincoln	17	123	106	82
Union	4	14	8	4
Morehouse	3	6	3	3

* Joint FEMA/State PDAs

Of the 373 homes, 350 were uninsured and 206 were majorly damaged or destroyed.



(2) Trauma

Lincoln Parish suffered the loss of a mother and her child, who was a student at Ruston High School (RHS). The school had extra counselors on campus to address any needs. For the first two days back, counselors were made available to the child's fellow classmates. They were also available for individual meetings with students.

On May 8th, the weather sirens alarmed of impending weather. The RHS band was at a banquet on Louisiana Tech's campus and evacuated to the kitchen. The RHS football team was at practice at the time, and some were visibly shaken by the sirens. Life is moving on, but the students at Ruston High Schools have gone through a traumatic event that they will not soon forget.

According to the principal at Cypress Springs Elementary School in Lincoln Parish, the kids have a heightened sense of fear. The students, parents, and teachers are much more nervous during any weather event. During the severe weather, students tried to get on their normal bus and were told they could not ride the bus home because the bus could not get down their street. This meant administration had to try and find the students other ways home, which was very difficult for the students and the families. Several students are displaced from their homes while recovering from the event. In addition, many students had no electricity for several days and had no clean uniforms to wear. The school worked hard to find them appropriate clothing to help them feel some sense of normalcy. Pupil Appraisal has been on hand to help with any student needs.

Other behavioral health services were offered to the community in the days following the event however subsequent severe weather events and have raised concerns of behavioral health issues. Survivors have endured at least two weather events that brought strong winds and tornadoes near their area.

(3) Special Populations

The majority of homes in Lincoln that were damaged were within Ruston. Ruston has a 59% ALICE and poverty rate which is a 2% increase from 2017 to 2019. Only 10 of the 318 homes were insured. Additionally, 125 homes were low income households and 155 were medium income households. 82 homes were destroyed and 106 sustained major damage. These homeowners are unable to recover without Federal support.

The Council on Aging/Meals on Wheels was greatly impacted by the severe weather and tornado. They were without power from April 24-May 4 and without phone or internet through May 7. They were unable to do any programming during this time. The most vulnerable population is the Meals on Wheels recipients who did not receive hot meals until May 7th, when power had finally been restored. Meals on Wheels is delivered to 120 people every week day and they experienced a disruption in their hot meal service for 9 days.

A family with a special needs son experienced immediate displacement the night of the tornado. They stayed in a shelter at Glenview Elementary and relocated to Gonzales with family the next day. The adult son with special needs was concerned about health care and mental health care, especially since he had established all his primary care in Ruston.

The Louisiana Center for the Blind (LCB) was also greatly impacted by this significant weather event. The University Hills neighborhood, home to several LCB employees and associates, was in the direct path of the April 25th tornado. Staff living in the downtown region and in east Ruston were also impacted. In the neighborhood adjacent to Louisiana Tech University, one blind couple was asleep, waking to the sounds of branches and limbs falling on the roof and a loud roaring sound. They ran into their master bathroom/dressing room seconds before a tree fell into their bedroom collapsing the roof and shattering the window over the bed they had just left. As the wind howled around them, they could hear glass breaking and trees snapping. Additionally, the roof in the bathroom/dressing room began to shift so they could feel the pressure and suction of the tornado. Another tree fell across the entire front of their house destroying 3 rooms. As the tornado passed, it became eerily calm. They exited their hiding area to total destruction in their bedroom. They dug through debris to find their phones to call staff, neighbors, and friends to check on them. Knowing the structure was unstable, they grabbed clothes and shoes. They could not leave their room to go to the hallway since their bedroom door was splintered and sucked out from the wind. Thankfully, they had a door from their bedroom onto their patio which they could exit to get to the carport/patio. The roof lifted, water poured indoors, the wind thrashed, the bedroom wall disappeared, another wall caved into the bedroom, hallway floor collapsed, and a couch was launched into another part of the house. These are some of the first impressions that the couple gathered in the moments following the storm. A visual assessment later confirmed what the couple already knew: their home and many of their belongings had sustained significant damage.

Less than a block north, a blind mother felt the pressure in her ears changing, signaling the oncoming tornado. The parents quickly snatched the sleeping girls (ages 3 and 6) out of bed and into the bathroom. The family huddled in the bathtub praying for safety; meanwhile, the sounds of shattering glass and plummeting trees surrounded them. Once the quiet descended, the family exited the bathroom and the parents began to consider an escape route. The mother called a good friend and neighbor, who said that her husband would come over to provide guidance. About 20 minutes later, the father knocked on the front door. The magnitude of the destruction came into focus- the sizzling sounds of electricity, the enormous collection of water, and the giant trees that made walking nearly impossible. Caring for the girls and remaining alert to danger were the priorities. With the heroic actions of this neighbor, who provided directions and critical environmental information even though his own home, wife, and children were in danger, the two families convened under the carport. They remained there for a couple of hours until another volunteer rescued the two families.

These are just two accounts; however, the tornado also severely damaged the home of a retired LCB employee, the home of a current instructor, and also left much of the staff and training center without electricity. Subsequently, classes were canceled, a retreat for blind seniors was rescheduled, and the weekly after-school Braille club for local blind students was not held. The retired employee was eventually rescued by police. All of these families are displaced and currently residing at vacant apartments at LCB. However, this option will not be available much longer because summer programs begin June 1.

In Union Parish, only 30% of all the homes affected by the storm are even covered by insurance. The majority of homeowners are in either the low or moderate income category. These homeowners are unable to recover without Federal support.

Morehouse Parish had 15 homes damaged during the April 25th, 2019 tornado. Eleven of these

homes affected by the storm are not covered by insurance. 87.50% of the homes are in the medium income category and 43.75% are in the low income category. Two homes were destroyed, one being the residence of a widower who is raising a seven or eight year-old, special needs grandson. She advised me that they are living with friends in Crossett Ar., and she is having to drive from there to his school every day. She stated that he is having difficulty adjusting to this change. He is an insulin dependent diabetic and this change has not only affected his mental and emotional health but his physical health as well. They lost most of their personal belongings due to this event. These homeowners are unable to recover without Federal support.

(4) Voluntary Agency Assistance

Louisiana volunteer agencies never disappoint the citizens of this great State by continuing to rally during and after every disaster. However, the volunteer agencies are available mostly to assist with temporary feeding or man hours for clean out work. They don't have the resources or the capability to provide the recovery and rebuilding assistance these communities and the state need in order to help these residents and towns recover from this disaster.

Countless people have contacted the volunteer coordinator, but with the amount of work that is left to be done, it will be quite some time before the groups can get back into the highly damaged neighborhoods. Volunteer support is already beginning to decrease for many reasons. Many volunteers need to get back to work and can only devote so much time to the effort. The rain and additional dangerous weather has prohibited many people from getting out into the wet yards and use of heavy equipment. The debris removal from the right away is also taking a long time, due to the overwhelming amount of debris that was removed from the roads the first few days of recovery.

Simply stated, despite the amazing volunteer response to the Ruston Tornado, the volunteer organizations are unable to finance major or destroyed home repair. It is unlikely we will have many volunteers available to help the affected homeowners.

(5) Insurance

The Joint PDA results show that 206 homes sustained major damage or were destroyed. Of the 373 homes impacted, only 24 had insurance. The best estimate available indicates the level of insurance to be in the range of 30%. Additionally, 36.63% of the homes damaged are low income and 48.13% are medium income.

(6) Community and Economic Impact

Thirty homes were damaged in Union Parish. As many as 9 chicken houses across 3 locations, each with as many as 20,000 birds, were damaged. Tree farms throughout the Parish were also damaged. This is a significant agricultural and economic loss to Union Parish. According to Lake D'Arbonne Lake Commission, Union Parish sustained business interruptions and economic loss due to the cancelation of two scheduled fishing tournaments. Between 25 and 50 participants had pre-registered and/or were anticipated to attend these events. Historical data suggests \$750 to \$1,000 per person is spent during the course of each tournament. This loss greatly impacted the area's tourism dollars, and therefore the surrounding community. Boat

launches were also damaged during the course of the tornado event. Debris caused several roads to close. Special equipment was used to remove some extremely large trees from parish roads. Additionally, the Union Parish School Board suffered significant food service loss totaling \$14,306.69 due to power outages during and after the severe weather. A total of 2,910 students, 262 teachers and administrative staff, and 45 bus drivers in Union Parish were impacted by the tornado. These students, teachers, and staff were displaced and/or out of work for over two days.

In Lincoln Parish, 100 businesses were surveyed regarding damage sustained and employees out of work. 77 businesses of 100 surveyed did experience some type of damage or disruption. Collectively, these businesses went 208 days without power and 419 days without internet and/or phone. Employees missed a combined total of 212 days of work due to the tornado. 1227 employees missed work as a result of the tornado and its aftermath. Some businesses dealt with a loss of income for about a week because people couldn't keep their appointments due to closed roads or dealing with damage to their homes and cars. For one business, once the electricity was back, they were able to treat patients; however, the lack of phone lines threatened and affected patient scheduling and confirmation was impossible without phones. In other words, the economic effect on us was more damaging the 2 weeks after the storm. One clinic lost an estimated \$10,000 dollars' worth of medicine alone. Another business sustained damage to their building, landscaping, and signage. They had a total loss to a \$12,000 business trailer and three days of lost sales and payroll, plus nearly \$15,000 in perishable inventory that had to be thrown out.

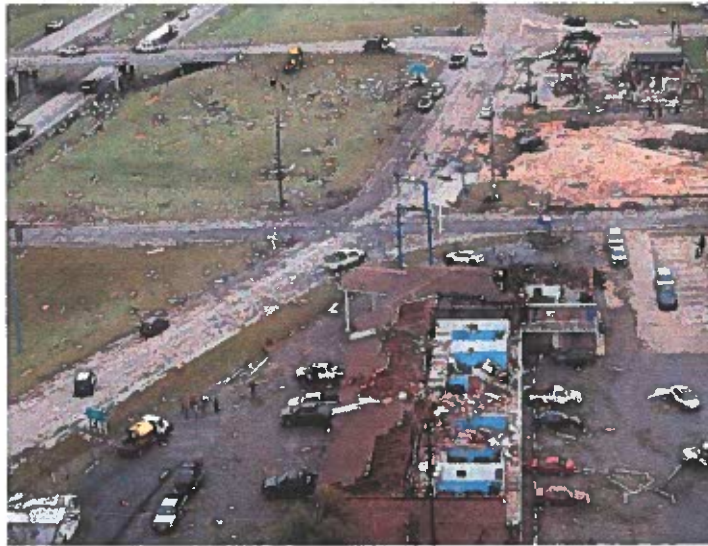
In Lincoln Parish alone, 18,026 students aged 3 to Graduate School level were impacted for over two days. It is important to note when students are unable to attend class, many parents are unable to attend work. The overall impact of school closures is much more than missing school.

The Parish also sustained a number of road closures, power outages, and fiber outages.

Below is a look at the State Hwy 167 South that was closed due to tornado damage. This is the view standing facing North just South of the I-20 intersection:



Below is an aerial view of the State Hwy 167 and I-20 intersections:



Below is a list of the road closures and the number of days they were closed:

4/25/19 – 4/27/19, Hwy 167 S, starting north of overpass (2017 – 100042)

4/25/19 – 4/28/19, Alabama Avenue from Tech Drive to Everett

4/25/19 – 4/29/19 & 5/1/19 – 5/3/19, Goodwin from N Service Road to Morrison

4/25/19 – 4/29/19 & 5/1/19 – 5/3/19, Reynolds from Forest Creek to Celebrity

4/25/19 – 4/30/19, E Georgia from Bonner to Memorial (2017 – 13779)

4/25/19 – 5/1/19, E Kentucky from Commerce to Hwy 33

4/25/19 – 5/1/19, Maxwell Blvd

4/25/19 – 5/2/19, S Service Road and I-20 east bound exit ramp

4/25/19 – 5/2/19, Barnett Springs Drive from Tech Drive to University

4/25/19 – 5/6/19, Everett from Alabama, turns into Cooktown to Westin (2017 – 3192)

On Thursday, April 25th, 2019, 75% of Ruston citizens were without power. Ruston staff and outside crews from Swepco and others entities began working diligently to restore power. It was not until April 28th that full power had been restored to the area.

Once power was restored to all structures that were safe to receive it, crews began working on May 1st, 2019 to restore fiber to all businesses. Ruston businesses enjoy the higher speed, higher capacity, and greater reliability of data access that fiber provides. Unfortunately, when the fiber was affected by the tornado, the majority of the lines had to be rebuilt. The first businesses

received fiber restoration on Friday, May 3rd. Ruston crews had to fuse the glass ends of the fiber together. The fiber has a 196 thread count, and it takes approximately 10 minutes per fiber to fuse. Through the efforts of the Ruston crews, fiber was restored to all businesses by the afternoon of Wednesday, May 8th. Prior to the restoration of the fiber, businesses did not have internet, several did not have phone service, and most could not accept debit or credit cards sales. Only cash was being accepted at a number of business locations for almost two weeks after the storm.

Other Considerations

The State has no IA program to supplement or any ability to provide assistance to these homeowners.

Furthermore, based on the ground assessments by the PDA teams, it is unlikely that most of the homeowners will even qualify for Small Business Administration Loans as they will not have the credit or income to be afforded this benefit.

As discussed above, the volunteer agencies in Louisiana are tapped.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

In accordance with 44 CFR § 206.48, there are several factors to consider for Public Assistance:

(1) Estimated Cost of Assistance

State and local officials are conducting debris removal efforts, with life safety as their top propriety. Considering the amount of devastation, I expect debris removal efforts to remain in effect for at least another month.

It is anticipated that Category A costs for this disaster will be high due to the significant amount of debris created by these tornados. The nature of tornado debris is that it is highly localized but incredibly intense. Debris amounts are expected to be higher than normal.

Category B costs associated with this event have been incurred. The National Guard was activated to help the Lincoln Parish clear roadways to allow first-responders access to otherwise block areas. Additionally, augmented staffing numbers and additional patrol and mission assignments for law enforcement and public safety agencies have been necessary in affected parishes. The Office of the State Fire Marshall deployed to assist LA Tech with building assessments on campus. The Fire Marshall's office also supplied inspectors to assist with residential power hookups.



Damages assessments were conducted by joint FEMA/State preliminary damage assessment (PDA) teams in the Parishes of Lincoln, Morehouse and Union. Additionally, prior to the activation of joint teams, the recovery staff at the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) conducted preliminary damage assessments in those affected Parishes.

The joint FEMA/State PDA's determined that Lincoln, Morehouse and Union Parish all meet the parish-wide Public Assistance (PA) per capita impact indicators. Please see below chart that identifies the estimated costs per PA category of work:

Parish	Cat A	Cat B	Cat C	Cat E	Cat F	Cat G	PDA Totals	Parish Indicator
Lincoln	\$3,953,659	\$902,088		\$4,811,299	\$2,009,503	\$351,576	\$12,028,125	\$176,658
Morehouse	\$15,680	\$2,200	\$115,710				\$133,590	\$105,761
Union	\$55,708				\$50,000		\$105,708	\$85,885
Total	\$4,025,047	\$904,288	\$115,710	\$4,811,299	\$2,059,503	\$351,576	\$12,267,423	

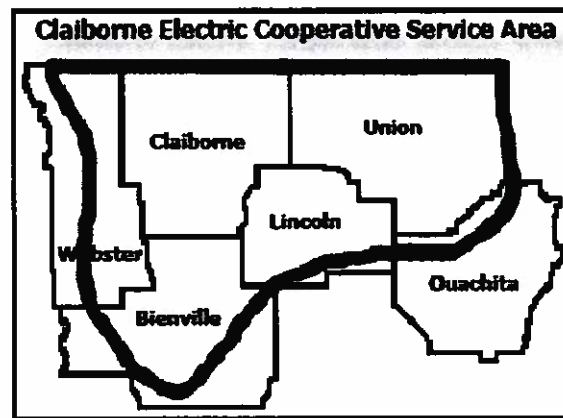
The 2019 Fiscal Year (FY) state declaration threshold for Louisiana is \$6.8 million. The total estimated damages per the joint PDA's within the Parishes of Lincoln, Morehouse and Union exceed \$12.2 million.

The PDA's did not capture costs associated with damages for the City of Ruston's water/sewer system, lift stations, treatment plant and materials. These cost were unable to be supported with documentation at the time of the PDA as requested by FEMA. The City of Ruston estimates these uncaptured damages of \$1.6 million to three (3) lift stations, sewer repairs of \$2.2 million and materials (manholes) of \$250k.

(2) Power Outages

Claiborne Electric Co-op provides electric serve to almost 24,000 meters, spread across electric lines in six parishes, including Lincoln and Union. The tornado left more than 4,200 members without electricity for 48 hours. Electricity service was restored slowly due to the 65 broken

poles and over 300 downed spans of primary distribution. The other major factor to slow restoration was the devastation of trees within our right-of-way corridors making it challenging to get the broken poles.



Initial assessments of the damage indicated that it was beyond the scope of the operations department personnel and Claiborne Electric Co-op needed outside assistance to restore electricity to its members. The Co-op contacted the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives for mutual aid from other cooperatives and contractors to help with the emergency power restoration work performed.

The City of Ruston operates their own power system. Approximately 75% of the City lost power as a result of the tornado. The City was overwhelmed by the devastation of its power system and had to utilize contract crews to bring in two hundred (200) additional linemen to help restore services. More than 130 electrical poles had to be replaced, along with 104,000 feet of electrical conductor. It took three (3) days for the City to restore full power.

(3) Localized Impacts

Local communities are overwhelmed with the massive amount of fallen trees, debris, downed power lines and poles. The State of Emergency remains in effect, allowing State resources to help the impacted area in debris removal efforts. Normal Parish and city operations continue to be seriously disrupted due to the debris removal operations. Parts of the affected area can largely be described as rural and local resources are simply not enough for the impacted area to recover.

The National Weather Service confirmed an EF3 tornado with maximum winds of 145 mph tracked 6.6 miles through Lincoln Parish causing widespread damage throughout the City of Ruston. These damages include, but are not limited to 331 structures and a significant amount of vegetative debris through the City. Additional debris damage was to the City's own power source, with the destruction of 131 utility poles and 66 transformers. As of May 15, 2019 the city with the assistance from the Louisiana National Guard had picked up approximately 4,325 tons of debris which was primarily vegetative. The City estimates that it still has approximately 225,000 cubic yards of debris that remains to be collected. The tornado caused tremendous damage to the City of Ruston's public utilities. The damages were to city-owned power grid, fiber optic system, water and sewer facilities.

START POINT	2 mile SW of Ruston, Lincoln Parish, LA
END POINT	9 miles NE of Ruston, Lincoln Parish, LA
RATING / PEAK WIND	EF3 145 mph
DATE	April 25, 2019
TIME	1:47am-2:00am CDT
LENGTH / WIDTH	11.32 miles / 1000 yards
FATALITIES/INJURIES	2 fatalities

Ruston, Louisiana is the proud home of Louisiana Tech University. The University was founded in 1894, and currently has more than 12,000 students enrolled. The EF3 tornado hit the University causing widespread damages to the men's baseball complex, ladies softball complex, soccer complex, tennis complex and track and field. Although the PDA's only captured \$5 million in uninsured damages, the State estimates that the damages could total close to \$9.5 million in uninsured damages at the University.



Several trees ranging in size from 48-51 inches in diameter were thrown onto roadways in Morehouse Parish causing damage to two (2) separate bridge structures on Oscar Lum Road. The bridge's inaccessibility affected more than 60 families in the area. Because of health and safety reasons the Parish removed the debris from the road and performed emergency repairs to make the bridges accessible until permanent repairs can be performed.

Union Parish suffered damages to their electrical system. Claiborne Electrical Co-op had to replace approximately 20 utility poles within Union Parish alone. The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development used force account labor and equipment to remove debris from state roads within the Parish.

(4) Insurance Coverage in Force

No estimated category A and category B Public Assistance (PA) expenses are expected to qualify for insurance coverage.

All insurance dollars for damages estimated under categories C-G (permanent work) have been taken into consideration and estimated proceeds reduced from the PDA estimates.

(5) Hazard Mitigation

The State of Louisiana's Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved by FEMA on April 1, 2019 and is expected to expire in April 1, 2024. It is a "standard" plan. The hazard mitigation plans for the affected Parishes have been approved and adopted. Previous mitigation efforts by the State and local governments undoubtedly contributed to a reduction of both loss to property and injury or death to individuals. This disaster provides an opportunity to implement hazard mitigation projects that will reduce the impact of future disasters of this nature. Therefore, I am requesting Hazard Mitigation assistance statewide. In particular, generators funded with Hazard Mitigation funding were utilized by the City of Ruston and by Lincoln Parish in this event and maintained sewer treatment operations for the City of Ruston as well as operations at the Lincoln Parish Courthouse, the Lincoln Parish Police Jury, and the Lincoln Parish Detention Center during a significant power outage. Therefore, I am requesting Hazard Mitigation assistance statewide.

(6) Recent Multiple Disasters

Louisiana is still recovering from a number of major disasters. Hurricane Katrina the largest disaster in U.S. history and Hurricane Rita impacted the State in 2005. Those two enormous disasters were followed by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in 2008. In April, 2010, the economy of the State received an additional devastating blow from the Deepwater Horizon Incident. In 2011, the State experienced two events which resulted in Major Declarations, first in June from flooding along the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers and then in October as a result of Tropical Storm Lee. The State received another Major Declaration in August 2012 when Hurricane Isaac made landfall in southeast Louisiana.

In August 2016, the State of Louisiana suffered a historic flood from prolonged rainfall resulting in catastrophic flooding. This flood event has been called the worst U.S. natural disaster since Hurricane Sandy in 2012. The State received a Major Declaration (DR-4277) for Public Assistance (PA) funding in twenty eight (28) parishes. Currently, PA funding totals more than \$667 million in eligible dollars with the State and Local Parishes carrying a \$66.7 million dollar cost share.

In February 2016, the State of Louisiana experienced severe storms and flooding. This event resulted in an Emergency Declaration (EM-3376) for the State of Louisiana. The parishes of Concordia, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, St. Landry, St. Mary, Terrebonne, and West Feliciana were granted Category B (emergency protective measures) Public Assistance (PA) funding. Almost \$7 million in eligible dollars has been obligated with the State and Local Parish carrying a more than \$2.3 million dollar cost share.

Additionally, in March 2016, the State of Louisiana experienced severe storms and flooding. The State received a Major Declaration (DR-4263) for Public Assistance (PA) funding in Thirty Six (36) parishes including Lincoln, Morehouse and Union. Currently, PA funding totals more than \$9.2 million in eligible dollars with the State and Local Parishes carrying a \$3.1 million dollar cost share.

In 2017, the State received an Emergency Declaration for Hurricane Nate (EM-3382) and a

Major Disaster Declaration for Hurricane Harvey (DR-4345). Approximately \$11.6 million in eligible dollars have been obligated under FEMA's Public Assistance program for these two (2) storms. The State and Local parish have yet another cost share to carry for these events totaling more than \$3.8 million dollars.

More recently, the State has experienced four (4) events in the last four (4) months which have required activation of the State's emergency response plan and which has further stretched the State resources.

Louisiana is operating under six additional states of emergency as outlined below:

63 JBE 2019, 61 JBE 2019 and 66 JBE 2019

From February 26, 2019 to this day, the State continues to experience significant flooding along the Mississippi River and its feeder rivers and tributaries. Currently, 24 parishes are operating under an emergency declaration with more parishes in the process of filing emergency declarations due to the severe weather and rainfall that has occurred across the state during the last several weeks. I declared states of emergencies as a result of the continuous flooding.

70 JBE 2019

In 2017, I declared a state of emergency via proclamation number 4 JBE 2017 at Camp Minden as a result of a threat of detonation of potentially unstable M6 propellant and other explosives that threaten the health and safety of residents in Minden, LA, requiring continuous state and local response. Most recently, the company improperly storing the M6 propellant at has filed bankruptcy without providing for the monitoring, removal, or disposal of approximately 18 million pounds of M6 propellant and other explosives.

68 JBE 2019

I proclaimed a continuation of a state of emergency, originally issues via proclamation number 165 JBE 2018. This was the result of a violent storm system that brought strong winds which caused severe damage, including dozens of damaged homes and businesses and thousand left without power between October 31, 2018 and November 1, 2018.

73 JBE 2019

I proclaimed a state of emergency in response to a line of storms moving into the state on May 8, 2019 through the evening of May 11, 2019. The storms brought high winds, heavy rainfall, local flooding and tornadoes. As a result of these storms, several parishes declared states of emergencies as they reported road closures, localized flooding, power and water outages, downed trees, debris and damages to numerous structures.

(7) Programs of other Federal assistance

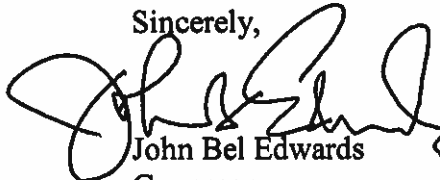
Louisiana is not aware of any available programs from other federal agencies that would appropriately meet the needs created by this event.

SUMMARY

I have determined that this April 24-25, 2019 incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective recovery is beyond the capabilities of the State and local governments and that supplemental Federal assistance is necessary. I am requesting a major Presidential Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance for Lincoln, Morehouse and Union Parishes. Specifically, I am requesting an expedited approval of Individual Assistance (IA) Programs include the Individual and Households Program, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Crisis Counseling, Disaster Legal Services, Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Program, Disaster Case Management, and the Small Business Administration Disaster Loans Program in order to help survivors, as soon as possible. I am also requesting Public Assistance (Categories A-G) for the Parishes of Lincoln, Morehouse and Union and Hazard Mitigation statewide.

I have designated James B. Waskom as the Governor's Authorized Representative ("GAR") and Casey Tingle as the Alternate GAR and also the State Coordinating Officer ("SCO") for this request. Director Waskom and Mr. Tingle will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and will provide further information and justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,



John Bel Edwards
Governor

Enclosures:

State Emergency Declaration (62 JBE 2019)
OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13
Enclosure A: IA PDA results
Enclosure B: PA PDA results
Daily Operations Brief
Summary from the National Weather Service