



Jeff Landry
Governor

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
P.O. BOX 94004
BATON ROUGE
70804-9004

REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY DECLARATION COVER LETTER

September 10, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D. C. 20500

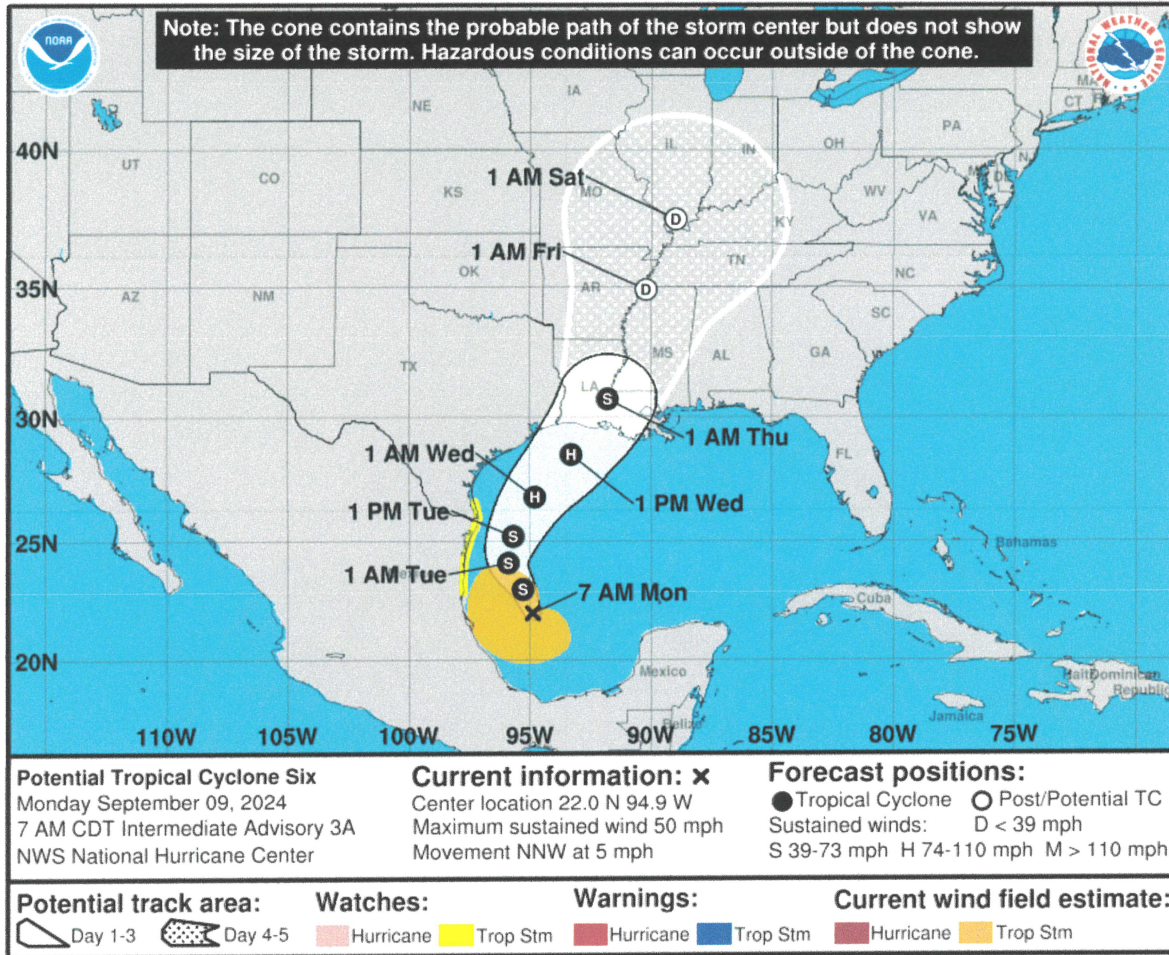
Through: George A. Robinson
Regional Director
FEMA Region VI
800 North Loop
Denton, TX 76209

SENT VIA EMAIL

Dear Mr. President:

Pursuant to Section 501(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. Sections 5121-5207 ("Stafford Act"), and 44 CFR Section 206.35, I am requesting that you declare an emergency for the State of Louisiana, effective September 9, 2024, as a result of Tropical Storm Francine. The National Weather Service ("NWS") forecasts that Tropical Storm Francine will make landfall in Louisiana on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, with winds approaching Category 2 hurricane strength. The impact of torrential rainfall, coastal flash flooding, damaging winds, and hurricane-spawn tornadoes will pose a serious threat to the lives and property of the people of Louisiana.

The NWS anticipates that Tropical Storm Francine will bring widespread heavy rainfall, with many areas of Louisiana expected to receive 5 to 15 inches of rain, and some southeastern parishes possibly receiving even higher amounts. This amount of rain will lead to flash flooding in those areas. Portions of coastal Louisiana are projected to receive storm surge of five (5) to ten (10) feet. Additionally, river flooding, strong winds, and tornadoes are anticipated from Tuesday morning through Thursday night across much of the state.



I anticipate the need for emergency protective measures, evacuations, and sheltering for high-risk areas. The length of possible inundation is currently unknown; however, the State anticipates the need for de-watering activities. Search and Rescue (“SAR”) assets will need to be prepositioned near the impact area to provide life-saving measures for survivors. Additionally, many critical facilities in south Louisiana are still operating under reduced capacity after surviving Hurricane Ida in 2021.

In response to these anticipated threats, I have taken the appropriate action under state law and declared a statewide emergency (JML 24-142) on September 9, 2024. Furthermore, I directed the execution of the State Emergency Operations Plan in support of the statewide emergency declaration in accordance with Section 501 of the Stafford Act. A copy of that declaration is attached. As of this request, 17 parishes have issued emergency declarations while many others indicate that they will make requests within the next 24 hours. In addition, tropical storm and hurricane watches have been issued for most of south Louisiana.

State and local government resources that have been or will be used to alleviate the conditions of this disaster:

GOHSEP

- Emergency Operations Center (“EOC”) activated its Crisis Action Team from September 8, 2024, to September 9, 2024.
- State EOC activated to Level 3 status on September 10, 2024, and is coordinating statewide response measures for Tropical Storm Francine.
- Daily coordination calls with parishes began on September 9, 2024.
- Sandbag, emergency generator, and pump requests are being processed.

PARISHES

- Parishes in south Louisiana have issued and are preparing emergency declarations.
- Parish EOCs are activating and preparing for extensive rain impacts.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic and the devastating effects of Hurricane Ida, Louisiana has expended hundreds of millions of dollars on equipment and services to safeguard its citizens and to mitigate the effects of those events. In 2020, the State responded to three different hurricanes. Hurricane Laura, which made landfall in August 2020, destroyed much of the southwest region’s infrastructure. Hurricane Delta, which passed through the same area just six weeks later, further damaged those same resources. That area’s capacity to provide critical services is still limited. In 2021 alone, Louisiana also experienced a winter weather disaster; a storm that produced widespread flooding and tornadoes; and Hurricane Ida, a Category 4 hurricane that has been categorized as one of the top five destructive storms to hit the State. Hurricane Ida devastated the southeast portion of the State, an area of the State which is now being threatened by Tropical Storm Francine.

While Louisiana has been fortunate over the last two years in avoiding any hurricane activity, there have been several federal and state declarations during that period including: Seawater Intrusion (EM-3600-LA), Highway 113 Fire (FM-5486-LA), Lions Camp Road Fire (FM-5485-LA), Providence Fire (FM-5484-LA), Tiger Island Fire (FM-5482-LA), 2023 Tornado Events (001, 004, 009, & 112 JBE 2023), and 2024 Tornado Events (JML 24-54, 72, & 89).

For these reasons, and pursuant to 44 CFR Section 206.35, I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that an effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and affected local governments, and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary to save lives and to protect property, public health and safety, and to lessen or avert the threat of this disaster.

I am specifically requesting Public Assistance Category A, Debris Removal, and Category B, emergency protective measures, including Direct Federal Assistance, for all parishes in Louisiana, namely:

Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Assumption, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, Caldwell, Cameron, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, De Soto, East Baton Rouge, East Carroll, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Franklin, Grant, Iberia, Iberville, Jackson,

Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Lafourche, LaSalle, Lincoln, Livingston, Madison, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Orleans, Ouachita, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, Red River, Richland, Sabine, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Tensas, Terrebonne, Union, Vermilion, Vernon, Washington, Webster, West Baton Rouge, West Carroll, West Feliciana, and Winn.

I certify that for this emergency, the state and local governments will assume all applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

Direct Federal Assistance (“DFA”)

I request direct Federal assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property, to include:

- United States Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”) - sandbags, self-contained pumps, damage assessment teams, power generation, technical assistance, mapping, and GIS support;
- United States Coast Guard - air transportation assets, technical assistance, search and rescue operations;
- Civil Air Patrol - air assets;
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service - wildlife management assistance within the Atchafalaya basin and technical assistance; and
- United States Department of Agriculture - crop damage assessment, livestock assistance, technical assistance, water management, and inundation mapping.

This assistance is requested statewide.

In accordance with 44 CFR Section 206.208, the State of Louisiana agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance:

1. Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-way 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 Agreement; and
4. Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

I have designated Jacques Thibodeaux as the Governor's Authorized Representative ("GAR") and Neal Fudge as the Alternate GAR. Additionally, I have designated Neal Fudge as the State Coordinating Officer ("SCO") for this request. Director Thibodeaux and Mr. Neal Fudge will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and provide further information and justification on my behalf.

For Louisiana,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JL', is written over the printed name 'Jeff Landry'.

Jeff Landry
Governor

Enclosures:

OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13
State Emergency Declaration (JML 24-142)

State of Louisiana



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JML 24-142

STATE OF EMERGENCY TROPICAL STORM FRANCINE – SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

WHEREAS, the Governor is responsible for meeting the dangers to the state and its citizens presented by emergencies and disasters;

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, confers upon the Governor of the State of Louisiana emergency powers to address disasters resulting from natural or man-made events that cause or threaten loss of life, injury, or property damage, as well as emergencies, which include actual or potential conditions created by such disasters, in order to ensure that preparations by the State will be adequate to deal with such emergencies or disasters and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, when the Governor determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, La. R.S. 29:724(B)(1) empowers him to declare a state of emergency or disaster by executive order which has the force and effect of law;

WHEREAS, a declaration of emergency or disaster activates the state's emergency response and recovery program under the command of the director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness ("GOHSEP");

WHEREAS, GOHSEP is responsible for determining the requirements of the state and its political subdivisions for food, clothing, and other necessities and supplies in a designated emergency area;

WHEREAS, Tropical Storm Francine is developing over the western Gulf of Mexico and is forecast to become a hurricane as it tracks toward the Gulf Coast;

WHEREAS, the storm is expected to bring four to eight inches of heavy rainfall across the southern part of the state, minor to moderate coastal flooding, gusty to damaging winds, and potential tornadoes, primarily on Wednesday and Thursday;

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service has issued a warning that this storm has the potential to become a Category two (2) hurricane before making landfall somewhere along the coast of Louisiana, just west of the Atchafalaya River;

WHEREAS, the storm could result in flash flooding, ponding in low-lying areas, rises on area rivers, and tropical force winds; there is a possibility of life-threatening inundation over the next 72 hours;

WHEREAS, seven (7) parishes have issued emergency declarations and five (5) parishes are in the process of issuing emergency declarations; and

WHEREAS, parishes statewide may require assistance from the State of Louisiana to provide resources to protect the life, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Louisiana.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JEFF LANDRY, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, order and direct as follows:

Section 1: Pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, a state of emergency is hereby declared to exist as a result of the emergency conditions that currently threaten the lives, safety, and property of the citizens of Louisiana.

Section 2: Pursuant to R.S. 29:724 (A)(3), the designated emergency area which is or may be affected shall include the entire State of Louisiana.

Section 3: The Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) is hereby authorized to undertake any activity authorized by law that he deems appropriate in response to this declaration.

Section 4: Pursuant to R.S. 29:732, during a declared state of emergency, the prices charged or value received for goods and services sold within the designated emergency area may not exceed the prices ordinarily charged for comparable goods and services in the same market area at or immediately before the time of the state of emergency, unless the price by the seller is

attributable to fluctuations in applicable commodity markets, fluctuations in applicable regional or national market trends, or to reasonable expenses and charges and attendant business risk incurred in procuring or selling the goods or services during the state of emergency.

Section 5: Pursuant to R.S. 29:724(D)(1), the Louisiana Procurement Code, (R.S. 39:1551, *et seq.*), and Louisiana Public Bid Law (R.S. 38:2211, *et seq.*), and their corresponding rules and regulations are hereby suspended for the purpose of the procurement of any goods or services necessary to respond to this emergency, including emergency contracts, cooperative endeavor agreements, and any other emergency amendments to existing contracts.

Section 6: All departments, commissions, boards, agencies and officers of the State, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions the State may take in response to this event.

Section 7: This Order is effective Monday, September 9, 2024 and shall continue in effect until Wednesday, September 18, 2024, unless amended, modified, terminated, or rescinded earlier by the Governor, or terminated by operation of law.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 9th day of September, 2024.



JEFF LANDRY
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE



Nancy Landry
SECRETARY OF STATE