



Jeff Landry
Governor

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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**REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION
COVER LETTER
MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY**

January 2, 2025

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
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:

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 Louisiana, effective January 1, 2025, as a result of the terrorist attack in New Orleans.

At this time, the attack has directly caused the death of at least fifteen (15) individuals. Dozens of other victims are currently being treated at local hospitals, many with life-threatening injuries. Local, state, and federal agencies are working to unite those survivors with their families.

In response to these anticipated threats, I have taken the appropriate action under state law and declared a statewide emergency (JML 25-001) on January 1, 2025. 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. Orleans Parish has also declared a state of emergency and is executing its emergency operations plan. A copy of that declaration is attached.

This terrorist attack has caused significant harm to our visitors and residents, disrupted essential services, and overwhelmed local and state resources during a time when the city is host to several large-scale events, including the Sugar Bowl and related activities, as well as the Super Bowl and Mardi Gras in coming weeks. The Super Bowl and Mardi Gras will bring in tourists from around the world and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has designated Super Bowl LIX as a Special Event Planning Assessment ("SEAR") Level 1. As

you know, a SEAR Level 1 event is a significant event that requires extensive federal interagency support as well as state and local resources to detect and prevent potential weapons of mass destruction or chemical weapons; prevent the entry of contraband, such as narcotics, weapons, and explosives into the event; prevent civil disturbances; and prevent terrorism and targeted violence. Key infrastructure, including major transportation routes and emergency services in the downtown area of New Orleans, have been severely impacted. Several businesses, in the French Quarter, have also been forced to completely shut down which is a high-traffic and popular tourist destination.

The State of Louisiana and its partners have fully responded to the crisis. However, the magnitude and complexity of the situation exceed their capacity to manage without federal assistance. As local and federal law enforcement work to find additional details on the attack, including tracking IEDs and potential security threats, additional immediate federal support is critical to protect lives, restore essential services, and mitigate the potential for further harm. This is especially necessary given the major events New Orleans will host in the upcoming weeks. Therefore, I am requesting that you declare an emergency and activate all federal programs available to assist in response and Louisiana's recovery efforts.

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 B, Emergency Protective Measures, including Direct Federal Assistance, to assist with the necessary protective measures as the state responds to this attack, and to provide necessary care for survivors, for the parish of Orleans. Additionally, I am requesting Individual Assistance, limited to crisis counseling for those impacted.

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.

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 "Jeff Landry", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Landry
Governor

Enclosures:

OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13

State Emergency Declaration (JML 25-001)

Mayoral Proclamation of Emergency No. 2025-00001

CC: Louisiana's Congressional Delegation

Mike Johnson

Steve Scalise

Troy Carter

Clay Higgins

Julia Letlow

Garret Graves

Cleo Fields

Bill Cassidy

John Kennedy