

Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



P.O. Box 94004
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804-9004
(225) 342-7015
GOV.LA.GOV

**GOVERNOR'S REQUEST
EXPEDITED MAJOR DISASTER**

August 29, 2021

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

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. §§ 5121-5206 (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 Hurricane Ida.

Hurricane Ida has strengthened into a Category 4 Hurricane, and made landfall in southeast Louisiana on August 29, 2021. I am requesting that the major disaster be declared effective August 26, 2021. The parishes in the immediate path of the hurricane are the following:

Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Washington, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana.

Specifically, I request, for the Parishes listed above, all parts of Individual Assistance (including Housing Assistance, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Disaster Care Management, Crisis Counseling, and Other Needs Assistance including but not limited to medical, dental, childcare, and funeral expenses) as well as Critical Needs Assistance (CNA). The majority of households in the requested areas are or will be displaced from their primary residence for an extended period of time, creating a financial burden. The displaced population needs assistance obtaining lifesaving and life-sustaining supplies necessary to support long-term displacement. In addition, I request an increase in the monthly Fair Market Rental (FMR) rate used to calculate Direct Lease unit eligibility to 360 percent of the monthly amount published by the U.S.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the 2021 Fair Market Rent Table based on the cost analysis completed for DR-4559-LA. I also request Public Assistance Category A, Debris Removal and Categories C through G for Permanent Work.

Additionally, I request Public Assistance, Category B, Emergency Protective Measures, including Direct Federal Assistance and Small Business Administration (“SBA”) Assistance. To better assist local areas recover from Hurricane Ida, I am requesting that the federal cost share for both Category A and B work be increased to 100% for 30 days. Finally, I am requesting Hazard Mitigation statewide.

In response to the situation, I have taken appropriate action under state law and directed the execution of the State Emergency Plan on August 26, 2021, in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act. I declared a state of emergency for the entire State of Louisiana on August 26, 2021, as well.

Preliminary Damage Assessments will be requested once Hurricane Ida leaves the state. 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 governments and that supplementary Federal assistance is necessary.

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 disaster:

To date, Louisiana has incurred almost \$5 million in emergency protective measures preparing for Hurricane Ida. A detailed list of State and local actions are included in the attached Situational Report. They include the following:

- Search and Rescue (“SAR”) - Louisiana has more than 600 personnel activated, including members from Louisiana agencies, federal agencies, and out-of-state personnel. Additional volunteers are available, and we anticipate having 900 SAR personnel available by August 30, 2021.
- Sheltering - Numerous parish and state-run shelters are currently in operation. Louisiana has coordinated with the American Red Cross to assist with these shelters, and various Louisiana agencies will conduct operations, feeding, and security at those sites.
- Public Health - In addition to providing emergency transportation and sheltering for medical special needs, Louisiana is providing additional testing and vaccinations in consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

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

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

August 29, 2021

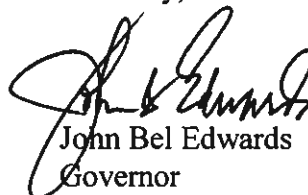
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1. Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-ways necessary to accomplish the approved work;
2. Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work, and shall indemnify the Federal Government 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 Agreement; and
4. Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

In addition, 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 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 agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

I have designated James B. Waskom as the Governor's Authorized Representative ("GAR") and Casey Tingle as the Alternate GAR and also as 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:

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

Proclamation 165 JBE 2021

8/28/21 GOHSEP Situational Report