

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

September 21, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Through: Gracia B. Szczech, Regional Administrator
FEMA Region IV
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341

Re: Supplemental request Individual Assistance for Carteret, Dare, Hyde, New
Hanover Counties and Public Assistance for Jones County

Dear Mr. President:

By letter dated September 13, 2019, I requested a major disaster declaration for Public Assistance due to the damage and destruction related to Hurricane Dorian for the following North Carolina counties: Brunswick, Carteret, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Duplin, Hyde, New Hanover, Pamlico, Pender, Sampson, Tyrrell and Washington. In my letter, I reserved the right to make any additional requests as damage assessments were ongoing at the time of my initial request. Today, again 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 C.F.R. § 206.36, I request that, in addition to the assistance previously requested, you also designate Individual Assistance for the counties of Carteret, Dare, Hyde and New Hanover; and Public Assistance for Jones County.

The National Weather Service (NWS) Offices in Morehead City and Wilmington published summaries of the initial impacts from Dorian. The Hurricane's impacts initially occurred during the morning hours of September 5, 2019, when several tornadoes touched down in eastern North Carolina. The most damaging tornado occurred in Emerald Isle in Carteret County. This tornado was rated an EF-2 on the Enhanced Fujita scale with estimated winds of 115 mph. An EF-0 tornado was confirmed by the NWS in New Hanover County. The NWS Eastern Region HQ reported that preliminary information suggests there were over 15 confirmed tornadoes from Dorian in North Carolina. The table below lists the tornadoes that were rated at EF-1 or higher.

Date	County	Rating	Winds	Notes
September 5, 2019	Carteret	EF-2	115 mph	Multiple homes damaged, a few mobile homes destroyed and tree damage. 13-mile path
September 5, 2019	Brunswick	EF-2	120 mph	Multiple homes damaged, hundreds of trees snapped. 10 mile path with 1 injury.
September 5, 2019	Brunswick	EF-1	105 mph	Significant pine tree damage.
September 5, 2019	New Hanover	EF-1	100 mph	Significant tree damage and minor home damage. 3-mile path
September 5, 2019	Pender	EF-1	90 mph	Significant tree damage. 5-mile path

Hurricane Dorian made landfall over Cape Hatteras, North Carolina at 8:35 a.m. on September 6, 2019, according to the NWS. As Dorian pounded the North Carolina coast, the NWS tracked hurricane force peak wind gusts of 110 mph at the Cedar Island Ferry Terminal, 89 mph at Fort Macon, 85 mph at Beaufort, 82 mph at Cape Lookout and 75 mph at Federal Point. Sustained hurricane force winds of 74 mph were recorded at Oregon Inlet and 83 mph in Nags Head, North Carolina.

The most severe storm surge flooding occurred on Ocracoke Island where several people were trapped in their attics by flooding from the 4-to-7-foot storm surge, requiring rescue by boats. Response efforts included airlifting people off the island to shelters on the mainland while food and water were brought in to residents on the island. Storm surge values are not official yet, but preliminary estimates reflect surge along the sound side of the Outer Banks at 4 to 6 feet above ground.

North Carolina experienced major power outages as a result of Dorian. At the peak levels of outage, more than 234,000 people were without power according to reports by Duke Energy, Dominion Power, Electric Membership Cooperatives, and the municipal electricity providers. Road infrastructure along Highway 12 in Hyde and Dare counties experienced damage, as did road infrastructure in several other counties in eastern North Carolina.

ACTIONS UNDER STATE LAW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

On behalf of the State of North Carolina, I took appropriate action under state law and declared a State of Emergency on August 31, 2019. As part of that declaration, I directed the execution of the State Emergency Operations Plan, in accordance with Section 401(a) of the Stafford Act. The emergency area under the declaration included all North Carolina counties.

Based on the NWS forecast on September 1, 2019, the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management (NCEM) activated the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and created a WebEOC event. NCEM also took proactive measures by reaching out to the counties in the state to warn them of the impending severe weather and informed them of the agency's readiness to assist with any support needed as a result of Hurricane Dorian.

On September 2, 2019, I requested and was granted on September 3, 2019, a federal emergency declaration, FEMA-3423-EM, for Public Assistance, Category B, limited to direct federal assistance. I ordered a mandatory evacuation of all North Carolina islands on September 4, 2019, and also issued a waiver to allow for out-of-state reciprocity for medical professionals on September 5, 2019. The State of North Carolina also requested assistance under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact to assist with response and recovery efforts for this incident.

NATURE AND AMOUNT OF STATE AND LOCAL RESOURCES THAT HAVE BEEN, OR WILL BE USED, TO ALLEVIATE THE IMPACT OF THIS INCIDENT. (SEE ALSO FEMA FORM 100-0-13)

At the peak of the event, forty-three counties issued a state of emergency in response to the National Hurricane Center's and the NWS Storm Prediction Center's warnings of dangerous conditions for many areas in North Carolina. Forty-two counties opened their Emergency Operation Centers (EOC). Five counties issued mandatory evacuation orders and thirteen issued voluntary evacuation orders. To receive evacuees from coastal and impacted areas, the state and counties opened seventy-one local shelters, a state-run mass congregate shelter in Durham, North Carolina and one state-run functional and special needs support shelter in Clayton, North Carolina. The state and local shelters housed 4,285 people.

Volunteer organizations active for disasters including the American Red Cross, North Carolina Baptist on Mission, the Salvation Army have been deployed to provide individuals with basic needs such as shelter, food and distribution of emergency supplies. As of September 19, those organizations have assisted in providing thousands of meals to persons impacted by the storm. Volunteer groups continue to remain active in helping survivors of Hurricane Dorian in North Carolina.

PRELIMINARY DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

Joint Preliminary damage assessments (PDA) for Public Assistance are ongoing. As a result of the assessments completed to date, it was determined that Jones County has met its county per capita impact indicator and I am requesting that the county be designated for Public Assistance in addition to the 13 counties in my previous request.

In addition, Local and State Emergency Response Teams (SERT) commenced their initial damage assessments for Individual Assistance (IA) on September 10. The preliminary findings of those assessments are as follows:

County	Destroyed	Major	Minor	Affected	Inaccessible	NVD	Grand Total
Carteret		38	16	13	46	323	436
Dare		2	29	40	404	7	725
Hyde		11	67	54	114	6	307
New Hanover		5		1	1	1	50

As a result of the State and local initial damage assessments, we requested joint PDAs for Individual Assistance on September 19, 2019, for Ocracoke Island (Hyde County), and on September 20, 2019, for Carteret, Dare, Hyde, and New Hanover counties. These joint PDAs remain in progress.

INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE DECLARATION FACTORS

According to the US Census Bureau, 14.7% of people in North Carolina live below the poverty level. A table, provided below, shows the demographics of the counties included in this request. On average, the percentage of people living below the poverty level in these counties surpasses the national average by over 2%, and by a much larger margin in several of the counties. Additionally, the median household income for the affected counties is significantly below both the national and state median income, which creates an additional hardship for people who are undoubtedly affected by Hurricane Dorian.

Disaster Impacted Population Profile

	Average of Persons Below Poverty Level*	Per Capita Personal Income*	Percent Aged 17 and Younger*	Percent Elderly (Aged 65 or older) *	Percent Persons Disabled*	Percent of Persons with Limited English	Percent of Persons Already Receiving Assistance	Percent Pre-Disaster Unemployment*
National Average	11.8%	\$31,177.00	22.4%	14.9%	18.7%	8.6%	12.00%	3.7%
State Average	14.7%	\$28,123.00	22.2%	14.3%	13.6%	1.8%	17.00%	4.1%
Carteret County	13.3%	\$30,903.00	18.2%	22.8%	19.9%	1.0	12.5%	7.8%
Dare County	9.4%	\$30,898.00	19.4%	19.3%	13.9%	1.8%	10.2%	5.2%
Hyde County	21.9%	\$19,181.00	16.8%	20.7%	10.6%	10.8%	20.8%	6.3%
New Hanover County	15.5%	\$31,708.00	19.2%	16.2%	12.6%	1.7%	12.3%	7.0%

**Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2017)*

State Fiscal Capacity and Resource Availability

According to reports from the North Carolina Treasurer and the U.S. Treasury, North Carolina has total taxable resources of \$555 billion, and a Gross Domestic Product of \$439 billion.

Impact to Community Infrastructure

There were significant impacts to much of the coastal areas, but the local infrastructure on Ocracoke Island in Hyde County was particularly affected. As of the September 19, 2019, the situation report from Hyde County Emergency Management indicates that there are many life-sustaining, transportation and utilities operations and essential community services occurring on Ocracoke Island. In addition, there is a mobile disaster hospital established on the island to support the residents with any medical needs. There are ongoing feeding operations on the Ocracoke Island from VOAD groups. Mental health counselors present on the island and have seen numerous survivors to help them deal with the impacts from Dorian. Law enforcement officers from the N.C. Alcohol Law Enforcement Division, Beaufort County Sheriff's Office, and Edgecombe County

Sheriff's Office are providing additional law enforcement support to the island. There is county-to-county mutual aid to support the firefighters on the island.

Damage to utilities includes numerous household water lines that are damaged and require repair. Landline telephone services are intermittent. Severed phone lines in Dare County are causing communications issues in Hyde County. There was a boil water advisory on the island that was in place for more than 72 hours after the incident and has since been lifted. The impacts to the transportation infrastructure were significant on Ocracoke Island. The main highway, NC-12, will be closed until at least November 22, 2019, according to the North Carolina Department of Transportation due to storm damage. The ferry system that takes residents to the island is operating on a priority system established by Hyde County. The county is working with the National Parks Service to set up debris sites on the island.

Casualties

Hurricane Dorian was responsible for three deaths that are directly or indirectly related to the storm.

Uninsured Home and Personal Property Loses/Disaster Related Unemployment

Based on a North Carolina Emergency Management's study of the National Flood Insurance Program policies following Hurricane Florence, much of Hurricane Dorian's damage to structures and personal property will not be covered by insurance. We intend to continue this study for Hurricane Dorian's impacts. Finally, the post-disaster unemployment rates cannot be determined at this point in the recovery process.

GOVERNMENT RESOURCES OVERWHELMED--DISASTER HISTORY

The State of North Carolina has a strong Emergency Management Division, with Individual Assistance, Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation, and Resiliency programs. However, North Carolina has experienced a number of recent disasters, both Federal and State, which have strained our capabilities and resources. In the last 18 months, state and local emergency management agencies have responded to three federally declared major disasters as follows: Tropical Storm Michael in October 2018, Hurricane Florence in September 2018, and a tornado in Guilford and Rockingham counties in April 2018. In addition, emergency management officials have responded to mudslides, fires and flooding which have also been devastating to State resources over the past three years.

HISTORY OF EVENTS:

- a. Hurricane Matthew devastated over half of the state in 2016, resulting in a Stafford Act declaration requiring in excess of \$100 million dollars of State cost share for both Public and Individual Assistance.
- b. In May 2017, straight-line winds and severe weather in Sampson County resulted in a US Small Business Administration (SBA) and State Type I Individual Assistance declaration for that County. Estimated Cost - \$650,000.
- c. On August 16, 2017, a State Type I disaster was declared for the Town of Windsor from the effects of Tropical Storm Julia. Estimated Cost - \$66,704.66.
- d. On November 15, 2017, a State Type I disaster was declared for the City of Eden for a straight-line wind event. Estimated Cost - \$186,301.
- e. On November 22, 2017, a State Type I disaster was declared for Ashe, Avery, Caldwell, Watauga and Wilkes counties for flooding and heavy winds. This also resulted in an US SBA Disaster Declaration. Estimated Costs - \$516,000.
- f. In fiscal year 2017 the State suffered from two significant fires resulting in Stafford Act Fire Management Assistance Grant Declarations. Combined Cost Estimate - \$858,992.29
- g. On April 24, 2018, a State Type I disaster was declared for the Village of Cedar Creek and the Town of Tryon for the effects of Tropical Storm Nate. Estimated Cost - \$44,410.69
- h. In April 2018, a tornado hit Guilford and Rockingham counties leading to a Federal Individual Assistance Declaration, the Other Needs Assistance share of which was \$324,173.19.
- i. Hurricane Florence, a historic storm for North Carolina, made landfall on September 14, 2018, and resulted in a Stafford Act declaration for both Individual Assistance and Public Assistance. The extent of the damage is still being determined, but damage costs have already exceeded \$2 billion.
- j. On October 10, 2018, Tropical Storm Michael affected North Carolina, leading to another Stafford Act declaration for Public Assistance. Recovery is ongoing, but damage costs have exceeded \$23 million.

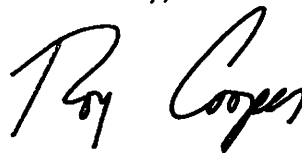
I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective recovery is beyond the capabilities of the State and local governments and that supplementary Federal assistance is necessary. The State has expended an extraordinary amount of money on Stafford Act and non-Stafford Act disasters in the previous three years, as well as the current fiscal year. Serious remaining impacts still need to be addressed; therefore, I am respectfully amending my request for a Major Disaster Declaration and ask that you designate Individual Assistance for Carteret, Dare, Hyde and New Hanover counties, including the Individuals and Households Program (IHP), the Small Business Administration's Disaster Assistance Loans, Crisis Counseling, Disaster Legal Services, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, and the Disaster Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program. I further amend my request to ask that Public Assistance-Categories A-G, including direct Federal assistance, be designated in Jones County in addition to the counties of Brunswick, Carteret, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Duplin, Hyde, New Hanover, Pamlico, Pender, Sampson, Tyrrell and Washington counties previously requested.

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

I have designated Michael A. Sprayberry as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in damage assessments and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

I appreciate your support and recognition of the continued impact that this storm poses to North Carolina and our people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Roy Cooper

RAC/wp/swh

Enclosure:
FEMA Form 010-0-13