



HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

August 28, 2005

The Honorable George W. Bush
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC

Through: Ms. Mary Lynne Miller
Acting Regional Director
FEMA Region IV
3003 Chamblee - Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341

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 Mississippi as a result of Hurricane Katrina. The hurricane is expected to cause catastrophic damage from flooding, high-winds as well as tornadoes and severe thunderstorms. Our response to this hurricane started on August 26, 2005 and is continuing. The state is expected to receive Hurricane force winds along the entire Mississippi Gulf Coast and as far as Jackson in the central part of the State. Current forecasts indicate that the State will receive heavy rains, averaging eight inches as far north as the northern border with Tennessee and some isolated areas with rains in excess of ten inches.

In response to the situation, I have taken appropriate action under State law and directed the execution of the State Emergency Plan on August 27, 2005 in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act as well as issuing a State of Emergency for the entire State effective August 27, 2005, as well. The State Mitigation Plan has been submitted and approved by FEMA.

A Preliminary Damage Assessment has been requested. 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 to save lives, protect property, public health, and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a disaster. I am specifically requesting 100 percent Direct Federal Assistance, 100 percent for Category A and B under the Public Assistance Program, for debris removal and emergency protective measures in the first 72 hours. I request the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the entire State. I request direct Federal Assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property. I request Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the entire State. I also request Public Assistance (Categories A-G) and Individual Assistance for the counties lying in or near the path of Hurricane Katrina that are likely to experience high-winds and torrential rains. I am requesting the full complement of the Individual Assistance Programs, to include the Individuals and Households Programs, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Crisis Counseling, Disaster Counseling, Disaster Legal Services, and the Small Administration Disaster Loans Program.

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I am requesting Individual Assistance for Adams, Amite, Claiborne, Clarke, Copiah, Covington, Forrest, Franklin, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Kemper, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Leake, Lincoln, Madison, Marion, Neshoba, Newton, Noxubee, Pearl River, Perry, Pike, Rankin, Scott, Simpson, Smith, Stone, Walthall, Warren, Wayne, Wilkinson, and Winston (41). Public Assistance for Adams, Amite, Attala, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Claiborne, Clarke, Clay, Copiah, Covington, Forrest, Franklin, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, Itawamba, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Kemper, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Leake, Lee, Lincoln, Lowndes, Madison, Marion, Monroe, Neshoba, Newton, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Pearl River, Perry, Pike, Rankin, Scott, Simpson, Smith, Stone, Walthall, Warren, Wayne, Webster, Wilkinson, and Winston (52). I further request the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the entire State of Mississippi.

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:

- Local County Governments and the Department of Human Services with the assistance of the Department of Health have opened over 25 general population shelters and several special needs shelters as well as anticipating the opening of numerous more to meet the needs of the forecasted number of evacuees from our coastal areas as well as from the States of Alabama and Louisiana.
- Transportation, Public Safety, Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, and the Military Departments are sustaining personnel, materials, and equipment costs in support of evacuations, including management of traffic flow along evacuation routes from Louisiana and Alabama as well as search and rescue missions and law enforcement efforts.
- Other State Agencies continue to incur cost necessary to execute their responsibilities under the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

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 Mississippi agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance:

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.

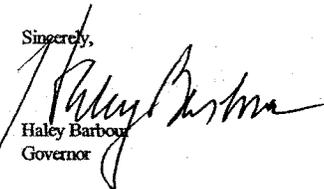
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In addition, I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health, and safety.

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 Thomas M. Wornack as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in damage assessment and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,



Haley Barbour
Governor