

Office of the Governor  
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR



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**REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY DECLARATION  
COVER LETTER**

**September 13, 2020**

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

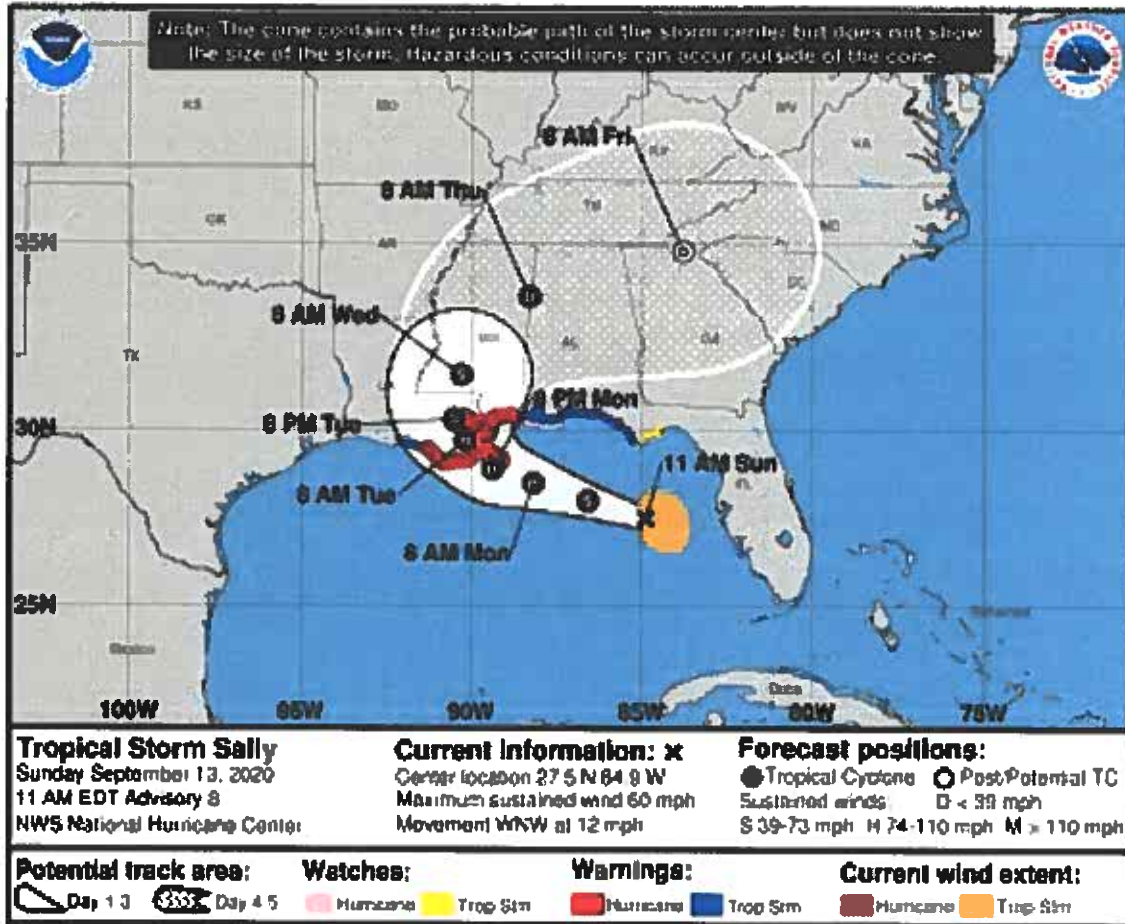
Through: George A. Robinson  
Regional Director  
FEMA Region VI  
800 North Loop  
Denton, TX 76209

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 501(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. Sections 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR Section 206.35, I request that you declare an emergency for the State of Louisiana effective September 13, 2020, as a result of Tropical Storm Sally. The National Weather Service forecasts that Tropical Storm Sally will make landfall in or around Louisiana between Monday, September 14, 2020, and Tuesday, September 15, 2020. The impact of torrential rainfall, storm surge, high winds, and potential tornadoes will pose a serious threat to the lives and property of the people of Louisiana.

According to the National Weather Service (NWS), Tropical Storm Sally is expected to slow its forward speed and strengthen to a Category 2 hurricane prior to making landfall. The NWS forecast is steadily tracking further westward, threatening more parishes with enhanced storm surge and torrential rain. The NWS has already issued hurricane warnings from Morgan City, LA to Ocean Springs, MS, and for Lake Pontchartrain, Lake Maurepas, and metropolitan New Orleans. The NWS also issued storm surge warnings for all of those areas. It is forecasting a storm surge of up to 11 feet in some areas. Rainfall as high as 20 inches is possible in many areas immediately east of the eye, bring flash flood warnings across a large swath of southeast Louisiana.



Given these uncertainties of the forecast intensity, the track trending westward, and the slow forward movement after landfall, it is likely to increase the need for significant search and rescue (SAR) assets and sheltering. In addition to pre-positioning in-state SAR assets, the State is also executing requests for out-of-state SAR assets. I anticipate the need for emergency protective measures, evacuations, and sheltering for the high-risk areas. The length of possible inundation is unknown and will likely require de-watering activities. At this time, due to the dangers presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, any sheltering activities will need to include non-congregate settings. *An important consideration in Louisiana's response is the fact that more than 12,000 evacuees from Hurricane Laura are currently being sheltered in New Orleans in non-congregate settings.*

In response to this situation, I have taken the appropriate action under state law and declared a statewide emergency (120 JBE 2020) on September 12, 2020. Furthermore, I have 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 the time of this request, 8 parishes have issued parish emergency declarations, 4 parishes are in the process of completing their emergency declarations, and more are anticipated over the next 24 to 48 hours.

The following information is furnished on the nature of state and local government resources that have been or will be used to alleviate the conditions of this disaster:

**GOHSEP**

- Activating its EOC to Level 3 on September 14, 2020, and is coordinating response measures across the state.
- Holding daily parish coordination calls, beginning on September 12, 2020.
- Processing sandbag, emergency generator, and pump requests.
- Providing levee-protection measures to vulnerable low-lying areas.

**PARISHES**

- Eight parishes have already issued emergency declarations, and more parishes are in the process of declaring.
- Parish EOCs are activated and preparing for extended wind and rain impacts.

In addition to the state and local efforts listed above, Louisiana has expended hundreds of millions of dollars during its fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. State agency expenditures as of this date are estimated at over \$900 million. In the midst of this pandemic, Louisiana is currently sheltering thousands of evacuees from Hurricane Laura, the strongest storm to make landfall in Louisiana in over 100 years, which struck Louisiana less than three (3) weeks ago. The added expenses associated with sheltering these survivors in non-congregate settings are especially burdensome, as both local governments and non-governmental entities who traditionally provide shelters have reduced capabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. For these reasons, and pursuant to 44 CFR Section 206.35, I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that 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 a disaster.

I am specifically requesting:

**Public Assistance Category B (Emergency Protective Measures)**

Public Assistance Category B, emergency protective measures, including those associated with mass care evacuation and shelter support, as well as pre-approval of non-congregate sheltering, is requested for the following parishes:

**Acadia, Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana Jefferson, Evangeline,**

**Iberia, Iberville, Livingston, Lafayette, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Vermilion, Washington, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana.**

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.
- 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:

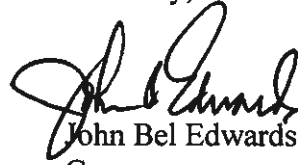
1. Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-way necessary to accomplish the approved work;
2. Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work, and shall indemnify the Federal Government against any claims arising from such work;
3. Provide 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 James B. Waskom as the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR) and Casey Tingle as the Alternate GAR. I have designated Casey Tingle as the State Coordinating

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
September 13, 2020  
Page 5

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  
State Emergency Declaration (120 JBE 2020)

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
**REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION**  
**MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY**

OMB Control Number 1660-0009

Expires 09/30/2019

1. Request Date Sept. 13, 2020

**Burden Disclosure Notice**

Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 9 hours per response. The burden estimate includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and submitting the form. This collection of information is required to obtain a benefit. You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to: Information Collections Management, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472, Paperwork Reduction Project (1660-0009). **NOTE: Do not send your completed form to this address.**

Completion of this form including applicable attachments satisfies legal requirements for emergency and major disaster declaration requests under 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170 and 5191, respectively, as implemented at 44 C.F.R. §§ 206.35 and 206.36. Failure to use this form may result in a failure to meet these requirements and/or a delay in processing the request.

2a. Name of State (as defined in Stafford Act 102, 42 U.S.C. § 5122) or Indian tribal government requesting declaration.  Louisiana	2b. Population (as reported by 2010 Census) or estimated population of Indian tribal government's damaged area(s). <u>4,533,372</u>
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3. Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Name John Bel Edwards	4. Designation of State or Tribal Coordinating Officer upon declaration (if available) and phone number Casey Tingle 225-485-7451
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5. Designation of Governor's Authorized Representative or Tribal Chief Executive Representative upon declaration (if available) and phone number  
 James B. Waskom 225-925-7500

6. Declaration Request For:  Major Disaster (Stafford Act Sec. 401)  Emergency (Stafford Act Sec. 501 (a))

7. Incident Period: Beginning Date Sept. 13, 2020 End Date \_\_\_\_\_ or  Continuing

*If requesting a "continuing" incident period, enclose an official statement from a qualified Federal Government agency acknowledged as a national authority in a specific incident field (e.g., United States Geological Survey for seismic incidents, the National Weather Service for flooding).*

7b. Type of Incident (Check all that apply)

Drought     Earthquake     Explosion     Fire     Flood     Hurricane     Landslide     Mudslide  
 Severe Storm     Snowstorm  
 (rain, high water, wind-driven, rain, hail, lightning)     (Must include Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data)     Straight-Line Winds  
 Tidal Wave     Tornado     Tropical Depression     Tropical Storm     Tsunami     Volcanic Eruption     Winter Storm  
 Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

8. Description of damages (Short description of impacts of disaster on affected area and population). Include additional details in enclosed Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's cover letter.

According to the National Weather Service, Tropical Storm Sally, which is forecasted to become a strong Category 2 storm, is expected to bring heavy rainfall, winds and storm surge across southeast portions of Louisiana, which is also the most populated part of the state. Such rainfall and winds will overwhelm drainage systems and cause significant property damage. Tropical Storm Watches are in effect across southeast Louisiana. Tropical storm force winds are anticipated in coastal areas by Monday afternoon (Sept 14, 2020) and are anticipated to continue through the evening of Wednesday (Sept 16, 2020). Once Sally makes landfall, the National Weather Service anticipated that Sally will slow down and linger, bringing sustained heavy rains. As a result, several other parishes have also begun conducting emergency protective measures. Several parishes have issued or will issue declarations.

9. Description of the nature and amount of State and local or Indian tribal government resources which have been or will be committed. Include additional details in enclosed Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's cover letter.

September 12, 2020. A copy of the declaration of the state of emergency is attached. Furthermore, I have directed the execution of the State Emergency Operations Plan in support of the statewide emergency declaration in accordance with section 501(a) of the Stafford Act. The State initiated emergency protective measures operations on September 12, 2020, and those operations are continuing.

Numerous parishes have declared states of emergency, and more are declaring declarations. Additionally, the State and parishes are working on sheltering plans in a non-congregate setting due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

10. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment\*

Individual Assistance    Dates Performed    Requested \_\_\_\_\_    Start \_\_\_\_\_    End \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)

Public Assistance    Dates Performed    Requested \_\_\_\_\_    Start \_\_\_\_\_    End \_\_\_\_\_

Public Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)

Until roads can be cleared, PDA teams will be unable to access the areas to verify damages.

11. Programs and Areas Requested

Individual Assistance  N/A     Individuals and Households Program     Crisis Counseling Program     Disaster Unemployment Assistance  
 All     Disaster Case Management     Disaster Legal Services     Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)) If additional space is needed, please enclose additional documentation).

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes in the requested counties (if applicable).

Please see **Enclosure A: Supplemental Information for Individual Assistance** for additional information in support of this request\*.

*\*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request*

11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Public Assistance  N/A  Debris Removal (Category A)  Emergency Protective Measures (Category B)  Permanent Work (Categories C-G)\* (not available for Emergency Declaration Requests)

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)). If additional space is needed or your request includes different categories of work for different jurisdictions; please enclose additional documentation.

Louisiana is requesting emergency protective measures for the following parishes in the State of Louisiana: Acadia, Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Jefferson, Evangeline, Iberia, Iberville, Livingston, Lafayette, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Vermilion, Washington, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana.

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes included in the requested counties (if applicable).  
Chitimacha Tribe, Coushatta Tribe, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, and Tunica-Biloxi Indian Tribe

Please see **Enclosure B: Supplemental Information for Public Assistance** for additional information in support of this request\*.

**Indemnification for Debris Removal Activity**

I do not anticipate the need for debris removal.

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 or Indian tribal government 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 or Indian tribal government agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

**Request for Direct Federal Assistance**

I do not request direct Federal assistance at this time.

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

a. I request the following type(s) of assistance:

Requesting DFA statewide, to include: 1) United States Army Corps of Engineers – sandbags, self-contained pumps, damage assessment teams, power generation, technical assistance, mapping, and GIS support; 2) United States Coast Guard - air transportation assets, technical assistance, search and rescue operations; 3) Civil Air Patrol - air assets; 4) United States Fish and Wildlife Service - wildlife management assistance within the Atchafalaya basin and technical assistance; and 5) United States Department of Agriculture - crop damage assessment, livestock assistance, technical assistance, water management, and inundation

b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services.

Louisiana, like many other states during COVID-19 pandemic, has expended huge amounts of money mitigating the effects of COVID-19. To date, those expenditures have exceeded \$900 million. These expenditures have hindered our ability to address subsequent disasters and emergencies. Additionally, Hurricane Laura response and recovery is on-going.

c. In accordance with 44 C.F.R. § 206.208, the State or Indian tribal government 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 or FEMA-Tribe Agreement ; and (4) Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

**Request for Snow Assistance**

N/A  I request snow assistance.

Snow assistance for the following jurisdictions (Specify counties, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas).

Please see **Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data** for additional information in support of this request\*.

\*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request



11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Hazard Mitigation\*  Statewide OR

For the following specific counties, parishes, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas.

12. Mitigation Plan Information\*

a. Mitigation Plan Expiration Date 04/01/2024 b. Type of Plan  Enhanced  Standard

13. Other Federal Agency Programs

I do not anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies  I do anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies

Please see **Enclosure C: Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs** for additional information in support of this request\*.

14. Findings and Certifications

I certify the following:

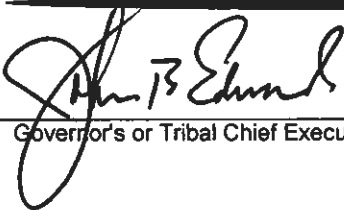
a. I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local government or Indian tribal government and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary.

b. In response to this incident, I have taken appropriate action under State or tribal law and have directed the execution of the State or Tribal Emergency Plan on September 12, 2020 in accordance with the Stafford Act.

c. The State and local governments, or Indian tribal government will assume all applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

15. List of Enclosures and Supporting Documentation

Cover Letter  Enclosure A (Individual Assistance)\*  Enclosure B (Public Assistance)\*  
 Enclosure C (Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs)  Enclosure D (Historic and Current Snowfall Data)  
 Additional Supporting Documentation Proclamation 120 JBE 2020



Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Signature

9-13-2020  
Date

If anyone except the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive signs this document, please provide the documentation that establishes that this individual has the legal authority to act on behalf of the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive.

\*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request