



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

**REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL EMERGENCY DISASTER DECLARATION
GOVERNOR'S REQUEST COVER LETTER**

September 14, 2023

The Honorable Joe Biden
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Through: Ms. Lori Ehrlich
Regional Administrator
FEMA Region 1
220 Binney Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02142

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 Maine and all sixteen counties in advance of Hurricane Lee's impending landfall. I am specifically requesting Public Assistance Category B, including direct federal assistance, to support lifesaving and life sustaining activities, property protection, and public health and safety needs which may surpass the capability of the State and affected local governments.

The State of Maine is posturing for extensive disruptions to community lifelines and severe impacts to public safety based on the projected severity of this event. Potential hazards associated with this event are expected to include coastal storm surge, inland flooding, and widespread wind damage. As a result, widespread loss of power and infrastructure damage is expected to overwhelm State response and recovery resources. A State of Emergency will be declared to allow additional State resources to mobilize and support response and recovery operations as needed. An Emergency Declaration will afford the State the opportunity to coordinate additional federal resources to supplement existing resources with all due haste.

State and County Emergency Operations Centers will be activated to posture for the storm's projected impacts Friday evening. Currently the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Duty Officer is in Enhanced Monitoring status to ensure the State is prepared to move to the appropriate level of activation of the State Emergency Operations Center. The State is coordinating with entities across all sectors, public, private, and non-governmental, to make ready resources for mass care, communications, search and rescue, and incident management with the intent of ensuring life safety



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and restoring disrupted lifelines as efficiently as possible. Membership from the Maine Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster are preparing their response and recovery capabilities, as is the American Red Cross Northern New England Region, which is posturing for a Level 3 Disaster Relief Operation, with the potential of a higher level based on impacts in Maine.

Within the last 24 months, Maine has received a total of five disaster declarations. On March 15, 2022, DR-4647 was declared across three counties for a severe storm and flooding. On March 22, 2023, DR-4696 was declared across a total of six counties for another severe storm and flood event. On July 26, 2023, DR-4719 was declared across a total of eight counties for yet another severe storm and flood event. Most recently, Maine received declarations for two separate severe storm and flood events that occurred within the same week; on September 5, 2023, DR-4736 was declared for Franklin County, and on September 6, 2023, DR-4737 was declared for Oxford County. Several counties have suffered repetitive damages to key infrastructure over the last 24 months and rainfall in advance of this tropical storm is expected to exacerbate those damages prior to Lee's arrival.

With the increased frequency and intensity of storm events in Maine over the last 24 months, emergency management officials across all levels of government have been stretched in their fiscal and programmatic capacity to respond to and recover from disasters. An Emergency Declaration will help safeguard Maine's citizens and infrastructure by expediting critical federal assistance. I humbly request your consideration of this request as Maine braces for the impacts of Hurricane Lee.

Sincerely,



Janet T. Mills
Governor

Enclosures

OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13
Enclosure C (Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs)



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