



**BILL LEE**  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF TENNESSEE

March 22, 2019

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

Through: Ms. Gracia Szczech  
Regional Administrator  
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. §§ 5121–5207 (Stafford Act), as implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Tennessee as a result of severe storms, flooding, landslides, straight-line winds, and tornadoes that affected the State during the period of February 6, 2019, and continuing.

The combination of abundant moisture and several different systems moving across Tennessee produced multiple rounds of showers and thunderstorms across the state from February 6 through February 24, 2019. While in some cases there were more than seventy-two (72) hours between systems, the multiple storms in close succession continued to compound the problem over the same area. Heavy rainfall resulted in flash flooding, beginning the ground saturation and high river marks experience across the region from Kentucky through Tennessee to the Mississippi River. Two more rounds of storms during the periods of February 10–12, 2019 and February 15–17, 2019 added to the already saturated ground and set the stage for river flooding to take place the rest of the month. Another prolonged rain episode occurred during the period of February 19–24, 2019, eventually leading to moderate and major river flooding along several rivers including the Mississippi, Cumberland, and Tennessee Rivers that continued well into March. In addition, a few reports of straight-line winds and tornadoes were reported during the month. Damages and costs are estimated to be well over \$68,304,882.00.

Impacts began following the February 6, 2019 event, with reports of flooding, sink holes, and mud/landslides. Multiple roads became impassible due to damages or overflowing streams and rivers. Several water rescues were performed at swamped vehicles and residential properties. A few evacuations from flooded properties occurred. Hamblen County reported a section of Norfolk Southern Railroad was covered by six (6) feet of water. Public school systems were closed in at least seven (7) counties, with flooding in some of the schools.

The next system moved across the State during the period of February 10–12, 2019, adding to the already water-saturated grounds and exacerbating flooding impacts. The February 10–12, 2019 rainfall caused additional road damages, overtopped roadways, landslides onto roadways, and washed-out culverts. River levels beginning to lower from the previous system quickly rose again, and many county school systems remained closed due to flooding. The next system during the period of February 15–17, 2019 brought continued reports of the same impact.

By the time the last weather system moved through Tennessee during the period of February 19–24, 2019, the cumulative saturation of the ground prevented any absorption of the rainfall, and the impacts were immensely escalated. The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) has identified two hundred twenty-six (226) locations with significant slope failures and impacts compromising traffic flow. TDOT anticipates that additional locations may be identified once flood waters recede. Cheatham Lock was closed for thirty (30) days due to high river flows. More than fifty (50) swift water rescues were made across the state between February 18 and February 24, 2019. Twenty-six (26) drinking water systems in the state experienced problems, including loss of service, line breaks, and flooded source and treatment facilities. More than eight thousand (8,000) customers were without power during the peak power outages. Eighty-three (83) of Tennessee's ninety-five (95) counties have reported flood damages and impacts, along with nineteen (19) counties issuing State of Emergency declarations. In Knox County alone seven hundred eighty-two (782) homes and businesses have been affected.

The four primary systems that caused heavy rainfall and flooding over Tennessee during February 2019 set new monthly rainfall records at many locations. For example, Nashville and Crossville both received over a foot of rain. February 2019 records indicate the State of Tennessee received between ten (10) and twenty (20) inches of rain.

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) record levels show an increasing rise of river flood stages. For instance, at Perryville (Decatur County), moderate flood stage was reached on February 22, 2019, and continued through February 27, 2019. Also, Savannah (Hardin County) reached moderate flood stage on February 21, 2019 and did not recede enough to reach minor flood stage until March 18, 2019.

A total of four weather-related fatalities have been confirmed since the heavy rains began: One (1) woman in Cheatham County was swept away in swift water, one (1) woman in Clay County was struck by a tree in her car, one (1) man in Hawkins County as a result of a mudslide, and one (1) man in Knox county who drowned in a submerged vehicle.

In response to the situation, I have taken appropriate action under State law and directed the execution of the Tennessee Emergency Management Plan (TEMP). On February 23, 2019, at 03:30 p.m. Central Standard Time, the State of Tennessee Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was elevated to a Level III – State of Emergency in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 58-2-107(b)(2), and this action by law declares a state of emergency. On March 17, 2019, I issued Executive Order No. 7, which waived certain laws to enable

federal highway emergency relief and facilitate the recovery process in myriad other ways, including ensuring continuity of health care, children's programs, insurance benefits, shelter, and repair efforts. This order is retroactively effective February 6, 2019, and it will remain in effect through April 7, 2019.

Initial Local Damage Assessments began following the February 6, 2019 weather system. Only a few affected counties were able to complete their assessments before the next system arrived. Local Initial Damage Assessments were not able to resume until well after the last system moved through the State. Even now, weeks after the rainfall, there are many areas in the State that are inaccessible, with a number of residential homes being uninhabitable. Damage assessments for total losses are unable to be fully calculated due to standing water in many counties.

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. I am specifically requesting all categories of Public Assistance for the following counties: Anderson, Bedford, Bledsoe, Blount, Campbell, Carter, Cheatham, Claiborne, Clay, Cocke, Coffee, Decatur, Dekalb, Dickson, Dyer, Fentress, Gibson, Giles, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Hawkins, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Lake, Lauderdale, Lewis, Lincoln, Marion, Marshall, McNairy, Moore, Morgan, Obion, Overton, Perry, Rhea, Roane, Robertson, Scott, Sequatchie, Sevier, Smith, Tipton, Unicoi, Union, Van Buren, Warren, Wayne, and Weakley. Additionally, I am seeking Individual Assistance, including the Individuals and Households Program (IHP Financial Housing Assistance and Other Needs Assistance), Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program (CCP), Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), and Disaster Legal Services (DLS) for the following counties: Decatur, Hardin, Humphreys, Perry, and Sevier. We anticipate, as flood waters recede and additional damage information is received, there may be other counties that will qualify for assistance, and we will likely be requesting that those counties be included at a later time. I am also requesting the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program statewide.

The impacts of this particular event hit hardest in areas that include the most economically disadvantaged areas in the State. Regarding demographic information, fifty of the fifty-eight (50 of 58) requested counties are below the National poverty rate. In county order from most severe below poverty rate are: Dickson (15.1%), Roane (15.2%), Tipton (15.3%), Hamilton (15.9%), Lincoln (16.1%), Obion (16.2%), Marshall (16.3%), Anderson (16.8%), Hawkins (16.9%), Smith (17.2%), Hamblen (17.7%), Giles (17.8%), Marion (17.8%), Gibson (17.9%), Sequatchie (18.0%), Houston (18.4%), Dekalb (18.5%), Coffee (18.8%), Jefferson (18.9%), Dyer (19.2%), Bedford (19.6%), Grainger (19.8%), Lewis (19.8%), Overton (19.8%), Clay (19.9%), Rhea (20.3%), Weakley (20.4%), Morgan (20.7%), Unicoi (20.7%), Wayne (20.9%), Bledsoe (21.0%), Decatur (21.1%), Warren (21.5%), Greene (21.6%), Union (21.8%), Van Buren (21.8%), Carter (22.0%), McNairy (22.5%), Claiborne (22.6%), Hardin (22.7%), Jackson (22.9%), Perry (22.9%), Campbell (23.1%), Johnson (23.4%), Fentress (25.2%), Lauderdale (25.3%), Scott (26.0%), Cocke (26.9%), Lake (31.4%), and Hancock (31.9%). According to the 2010 Census the national poverty rate is 15.9%. The rate of poverty for the State of Tennessee exceeds that rate at 16.9%. The percentage of the population in affected counties that is elderly ranges from 11.4% to 20.9%. The percentage of the population in affected counties that is disabled ranges from 10.6% to 25.2%.

FEMA-State joint Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) in affected counties, and with affected state agencies, began on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, and were completed on Thursday, March 21, 2019. At the time of this letter, we validated eligible electric cooperative, state agency, municipal, and county expenditures in excess of \$68,136,882.00 in preparation for, response to, and recovery from the storm. Based on the joint PDA estimates, fifty-eight (58) counties have validated eligible expenditures that meet or exceed the countywide per capita indicator established to evaluate the impact of the disaster at the county level. We are confident that with additional time, more damage will surface which will meet and exceed the local per capita indicator. The impacts to the requested counties were disproportionately high, with localized per capita impacts ranging from \$3.84 to \$258.71 per capita. Statewide, damages and response costs sustained during the severe storm and flooding reached \$10.74 per capita, greater than FEMA’s established statewide per capita indicator of \$1.50.

The SEOC was staffed on a 24-hour basis with Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) employees and Emergency Services Coordinators (ESCs). Multiple State Agencies were involved in the response, including: Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC); Department of General Services (DGS); Department of Health (DOH); Department of Human Services; TDOT; Department of Military, TN National Guard (TNG) and TEMA; Department of Safety, Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP); State Fire Marshal’s Office; and representatives from several volunteer organizations (Volunteer Tennessee) and the American Red Cross (ARC).

In response to our residents’ and communities’ needs, Tennessee local and State governments, voluntary organizations, and electrical cooperatives planned and responded to a degree that saved both life and property. Numerous volunteer groups provided assistance, ranging from cleanups to case work, to feeding support. Active groups include: Foursquare, Adventist Community Services, TN Baptist Convention, Hope Animal, Hope Force International, United Methodist, Just Serve, American Legion, Latter-Day Saints Charities, TN Baptist Disaster Response, and other organizations. At the onset of the storm, the ARC placed sixty-four (64) shelters on standby. The ARC and private organization shelters were activated in the following counties: Clay, Decatur, Dickson, Greene, Harding, Humphreys, Lincoln, McNairy, Morgan, Sevier, and Washington. During the response period the following was reported:

|                                   | <u>Total</u> |                            | <u>Total</u> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Shelter Overnight Stays           | 268          | Cases of Water Distributed | 289          |
| Meals Served                      | 4,198        | Comfort Kits Distributed   | 241          |
| Snacks Served                     | 2,463        | Cleanup Kits Distributed   | 626          |
| Shelf Stable Meals Served         | 9,424        | Health Consultations       | 200          |
| Vehicles Providing Mobile Feeding | 3            |                            |              |

Local emergency management operations handled many requests for critical assistance emanating from each city and county, as needed, requesting assistance from the State when their resources were exhausted. In addition, local emergency management agencies provided consistent situational awareness to the SEOC through conference calls, emails, and the State’s Web

Emergency Operations Program (WEBEOC). On Friday, March 22, 2019, the SEOC returned to Level IV – Monitoring and anticipates returning to Level V – Normal operations on April 7, 2019. A summary of the actions taken during the State’s response are as follows:

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation:

- Tracked twenty-six (26) water and wastewater systems statewide that experienced loss of service, line breaks, flooded source water facilities, inoperable treatment facilities causing water outages and boil water notices;
- Monitored fuel terminal and retail operations, distribution systems, and integrity of fuel supplies. Tracked power outages and kept in regular communication with Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) representatives;
- Rangers were placed on standby to assist with search and rescue operations and also provided assistance with cleanup and damage assessment of eighteen (18) affected State Parks;
- Environmental Divisions assisted counties with debris disposal issues, including inspection and approval of sites for temporary debris storage areas, run off issues, and debris burn approvals. TDEC will also assist with other waste and potential hazardous materials left behind (drums and tanks); and
- Environmental responders and field office staff provided on-scene support and remain in communication with County EMAs to render assistance.

Department of General Services:

- Coordinated with the SEOC for the purchase and rental of equipment, accessories, services and transportation of resources as needed. This included the rental of water pumps for various counties, road barricades, traffic barrels, traffic control cones, batteries, bottled water, and an air compressor.

Department of Health:

- Provided continuous monitoring of sheltering operations to assess needs for nursing and logistical support. Staff also assisted with fatality and injury confirmations;
- Monitored healthcare facilities for increased in-patient surge due to weather related incidents. The healthcare resource tracking system was activated statewide to monitor bed availability and disaster resources in healthcare, hospitals and Emergency Medical Services; and
- Provided press releases and public service messages regarding boil water requirements and flood water contamination.

Department of Human Services:

- Personnel staffed the SEOC to facilitate communication and resources between Human Services, TEMA, FEMA, Red Cross and various other agencies to assist with disaster needs for response and recovery; and
- Staff remained on standby for potential sheltering and damage assessment needs.

Department Tennessee Department of Transportation:

- Monitored damages and response to fifty-eight (58) slides and/or rock falls; seventy-five (75) locations on state highways were closed to traffic due to flooding; ninety-nine (99) other types of impacts ranging from sinkholes to escaped barges hitting bridges;
- Initiated repair activities as damages were identified;
- Coordinated expedited Environmental Review requests shortening response period from thirty (30) days to seven (7) days; and
- Began planning for debris (vegetative/woody) materials clean-up.

Department of Military, TN National Guard:

- Two (2) UH-60s with hoists were placed on standby to support any required tasking;
- Three (3) NG Rescue One Flood Boats were offered if needed with 24-hour response time;
- Sevier County requested imagery to assess damage from flood waters. Imagery provided by TN NG assets;
- TN NG provided GIS mapping products to County Mayors and EMA's in Hardin, McNairy and Decatur County to show flood damage and coverage area; and
- TN NG requested imagery for Mississippi River crest timeframe in West Tennessee.

Department of Military, Tennessee Emergency Management Agency:

- Began monitoring and documenting weather impacts on February 6, 2019;
- Monitored and documented eighty-three (83) counties with damages, nineteen (19) disaster declared counties;
- Provided response to an excess of one hundred twenty-five (125) resource requests state wide;
- Deployed seventeen (17) district coordinators to all three TEMA regions providing response and support to local government needs;
- Performed GIS mapping coordination with US Army Corps of Engineers and TVA for inundation mapping;
- Facilitated daily conference calls to provide support to Regional Offices and identify any unmet needs;
- Coordinated purchase and distribution of potable water (24 pallets) and sandbags (16,500 each) across the State; and
- Facilitated creation of Debris Management Task Force.

Department of Safety, Tennessee Highway Patrol:

- Troopers throughout the state responded to provide assistance to citizens affected by severe weather;
- Troopers aided in the rescue of persons affected by flooding in Dickson, Van Buren, and Sequatchie counties;
- Troopers aided in traffic control and direction on multiple affected roads throughout the state;
- Aviation missions were conducted in response to flooded areas; and
- Troopers manned the SEOC to coordinate ESF-13 response.

State Fire Marshal's Office

- Secured State Fire Marshal personnel GIS resource to staff ESC overnight on February 22, 2019 to relieve TEMA staff to prepare flood inundation mapping;
- Secured dorm accommodations for Coast Guard PUNT team to stage at Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy free of charge starting February 22, 2019 thru February 24, 2019;
- Staffed ESF-4 in the SEOC or monitored throughout the duration of the incident; and
- Coordinated with Fire Chiefs state-wide mutual aid throughout duration and assisted with determining tracking and availability of swift water resources.

#### Volunteer Tennessee

- Established Crisis Cleanup Hotline;
- Processed one thousand one hundred three (1,103) calls for information. Validated three hundred twenty-nine (329) requests for clean-up assistance;
- Coordinated training for volunteers to utilize new Crisis Cleanup database and telephone systems;
- Coordinated distribution of donated food for sixty (60) people in Stewart County who were trapped in their neighborhood by floodwaters; and
- Coordinated crews of volunteers distributing Mop Bucket Kits, First Aid Kits, Comfort Kits, and Disaster Recovery Bags to impacted residents.

#### Financial Exhaustion

Beginning in January 2018, and continuing through early March 2019, the State of Tennessee has had several significant non-Presidential disaster events as part of hundreds of missions and incidents, such as Transportation Incidents, Search and Rescue Incidents, Severe Weather, Fire, Hazard Material Incidents, and so forth. The following provides a snapshot of a subset of the missions outside of the Stafford Act that State and local governments have managed on their own, which further exhausted resources, impacting budgets for current and past calendar years.

On January 12, 2018, at 06:00 a.m., the SEOC went to a Level 4 – Monitoring status due to expected winter weather for portions of West and Middle Tennessee. At 02:50 p.m., the SEOC status was elevated to Level 3 – State of Emergency. A winter storm with freezing rain, sleet, and snow occurred across the western sections of the mid-State. The Governor declared State offices closed. All county health department offices were closed in the west part of the State. Many school districts were either closed or started late as a result of the storm impacts. Multiple accidents were reported on I-40 between mile markers 108 and 120 in Henderson County. TDOT reported 10 to 15 tractor trailers were involved in one incident. Critical injuries were also reported. All lanes of the interstate were shut down for a number of hours while the accident was cleared. A staging area was established at Natchez Trace State Park Headquarters to conduct health and welfare checks on I-40. Seven (7) National Guard HUMMV teams from Huntington Armory conducted welfare checks and distributed approximately one hundred sixty (160) comfort kits, eight (8) cases of water and sixty (60) blankets from TEMA to stranded motorists. THP worked hundreds of crashes throughout the evening, with many issues arising on I-40 near Jackson. Two National Guard wreckers also supported clearing wrecked vehicles from the scene of a multiple vehicle crash on I-40.

On January 16, 2018, at 07:00 a.m., the SEOC went to Level 4 – Monitoring due to the potential for severe winter weather across the state. A band of snow located across northwestern and north central Middle Tennessee continued moving southeastward. Accumulation amounts ranged from three to six inches in the winter storm warning areas. Dangerous arctic air moved in with the snow leaving temperatures in the single digits over night with wind chills of minus 1 to minus 15 degrees. All public schools in the state were closed except for four districts in East Tennessee, which dismissed early. Fifteen (15) of the twenty-seven (27) Tennessee College of Applied Technology campuses were closed. Eighteen (18) of twenty-two (22) Tennessee Universities and Community Colleges were closed or were on a two (2) hour delay. Numerous road closures were recorded as a result of motor vehicle accidents. ARC shelters were on standby due to low temperatures. On January 17, 2018, Governor Bill Haslam declared a State of Emergency providing temporary exemption from the federal rules and regulations in 49 C.F.R. Part 395 limiting the hours of service for operators of commercial vehicles providing livestock and poultry feed products or live poultry during the state of emergency (through January 31, 2018).

Beginning February 18, 2018, a series of storms caused flooding in the Mississippi watershed, resulting in slow-rise flooding in west Tennessee. Local assessments identified damages in Dyer County, Lauderdale County, and Tipton County. Some areas were reported to be under water up to a month after the initial flooding.

On February 23, 2018, at 04:30 p.m., the SEOC went to a Level 4 – Monitoring due to the potential for severe weather across the state. Multiple severe thunderstorm warnings, area flood watches, and tornado watches were issued for parts of the West and Middle Tennessee counties. The NWS confirmed four (4) tornadoes in Tennessee: one (1) EF2 tornado and one (1) EF1 tornado in Montgomery County, and one (1) EF2 tornado and one (1) EF1 tornado in Robertson County. Initial assessments indicated eighty-six (86) homes were impacted by the winds and twelve (12) were destroyed. Montgomery County reported a lightning strike causing roof damage at Austin Peay State University's Dunn Center where a basketball game was underway. Fans were sheltered in place in a safe area of the building. Bi County Landfill in Montgomery County opened Sunday to receive debris. It received thirty-nine (39) loads of demolition debris on Monday alone. Three individuals were medically transported due to storm impacts throughout the county. Damages in Obion County included downed trees and powerlines where a suspected tornado touchdown was reported but not confirmed. Thirty-Nine (39) structures were damaged and approximately ten (10) individuals were rescued, with three (3) of those individuals transported to a hospital. Additional damages were reported to homes and businesses in Carroll County and Henry County.

On February 28, 2018, the SEOC remained at Level 4 – Monitoring due to multiple flood advisories and flood watches/warnings that had been continued in the West and Middle Tennessee regions. Several areas across the State received up to four (4) inches in additional rain from this weather system. Seventeen (17) school districts were closed and six (6) were delayed as a result of flooded road conditions. Reports of trees down across roadways were prevalent. Road closures across the State too numerous to list were enforced due to water across the roadways. Shelby County inbound lanes to the port were closed to water traffic due to unsafe conditions, and traffic was detoured to President's Island. Water rescues from vehicles occurred in Giles County (two (2) rescues), Moore County (one (1) rescued), and Perry County (one (1) rescued). In Wayne County, a family was rescued from their driveway by the fire department after being trapped by



rising water. In Hardin County, eleven (11) persons were rescued from four flooded homes by a swift water rescue team. The ARC assisted some of the displaced. Centerville Utilities in Hickman County ran out of water supply due to heavy silt from flooding, causing their intake lines to malfunction. Fire department drop tanks were used to supply non-potable water to the hospital and EMS station. Fifteen (15) plus pallets of drinking water were delivered for distribution to the jail, government offices, and the community. On March 1, 2018, an explosion occurred at the Smelter Service Corporation in Maury County as a result of flood water breaching the building and coming into contact with molten aluminum. Two (2) employees were injured in the blast. One (1) was treated at the scene and the second was transported by helicopter to Vanderbilt University Medical Center with severe burns. In Hamilton County, it was reported that the Hamilton Dam was leaking. This was the second seep that had occurred during high flows in a thirty (30) day period. In Fentress County, a landslide closed State Route 85 until the roadway could be cleared and secured.

On March 19, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., the SEOC went to a Level 4 – Monitoring in preparation for severe weather affecting the state. Thunderstorm and tornado warnings were issued for portions of the Tennessee Valley and Southeast. ARC shelters and storm shelters were placed on standby. At least thirty-four (34) school systems dismissed school early in anticipation of the weather impacts. Power outages were reported in Lincoln County. Giles County reported debris clogged a drainage system, causing ponding of water on I-65 which closed lane two until crews could clear the obstruction. Additional damages to roadways from floodwaters were reported by Dyer County, Lauderdale County, and Tipton County.

On April 27, 2018, the SEOC elevated to a Level 4 – Monitoring for the purpose of pre-positioning and coordinating state resources for support of local government responding to a planned conference of the American Renaissance at Montgomery Bell State Park, with two hundred fifty (250) persons in attendance. The SEOC provided District Coordinators (DCs) in support of command, as well as enhanced communications capabilities. Protest permits were issued, with estimated one hundred twenty-five (125) persons attending. Social media reported several other groups had intentions to protest the event. A protest area was established outside of the conference area marked with fencing. The Inn's restaurant was closed to the public and portable toilets were provided in the protest area. A command post and staging area were established at a nearby middle school. An ambulance team was staged at the command post with two (2) other units nearby. Seventy (70) officers were on site, with an additional twenty (20) on standby. Undercover personnel were present, as well as special operations. Forty (40) National Guard Military Police Officers in training at a nearby armory were placed on standby, if needed.

On June 15, 2018, the SEOC went to a Level 4 – Monitoring for the purpose of facilitating state response resources and local government support in response to possible protest events at the Montgomery Bell State Park for the American Freedom Party event, during the period of June 15–17, 2018. Checkpoints were set-up and manned, and a TBI Command Center and a Medical Area were established. State Park Rangers, THP, and Corrections were all placed on standby, ready to respond.

On June 23, 2018, severe weather moved across the State, causing fallen trees, downed power lines, power outages, and in some instances heavy damage to residences. No injuries were

reported. At one point, Shelby County, reported 19,659 residences without power. Counties impacted by these storms included Fayette, Hardeman, McNairy, Hardin, and Shelby in the west region; Lawrence, and Wayne in the middle region; and Bradley, Hamilton, Marion, Polk, and Sequatchie in the east region.

On September 11, 2018, the SEOC went to Level 4 for the purpose of monitoring impacts of approaching Hurricane Florence, as well as pre-positioning teams and facilitating resource deployment to support EMAC requests. On September 11, 2018, Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam issued Executive Order No. 72, waiving transportation restrictions on equipment, supplies, and mobile housing units for Hurricane Florence relief efforts.

The Department of Tourist Development provided updated hotel accommodation information to evacuees at Welcome Centers. The ARC opened shelters in Kingsport, Knoxville, and Chattanooga (47 ARC/28 Non ARC peak populations reported). Logistics provided water, MREs, bug spray, and hand sanitizer to Tennessee responders headed to the Carolinas. TEMA continued to monitor the hurricane path and anticipate any potential Tennessee impact.

On October 2, 2018, the State of Tennessee experienced multiple days of heavy rainfall resulting in flash flooding across portions of Middle and East Tennessee. The Hamilton County EOC opened to monitor the situation. A command center was established for all operations. One (1) fatality was confirmed in Hamilton County. Fourteen (14) counties reported damages, including multiple roads washed away or closed due to water overtopping the roadway, the development of a sinkhole affecting a childcare facility, power outages, businesses, homes, and vehicles sustaining heavy damages due to flood water, and school systems in two (2) counties releasing early or closing due to flooding concerns.

On October 10, 2018, the SEOC went to Level 4 for the purpose of monitoring impacts of Hurricane Michael, as well as pre-positioning teams and facilitating resource deployment to support future EMAC requests. The State deployed multiple ambulance strike teams to Florida to support emergency officials readying for life-safety impacts when Hurricane Michael made landfall. The teams included a total of thirty-five (35) members representing departments from the following Tennessee agencies and counties: Sullivan County, Washington County, Greene County, Grainger County, Knox County, Blount County, Jefferson County, Medical Center Madison County, Medical Center Benton County, Medical Center Chester County, Henderson County and Bartlett Fire Shelby County. The ambulance strike teams deployed for eleven (11) days.

On November 5, 2018, the SEOC went to a Level 4 – Monitoring due to the potential for severe weather across the state. The storms caused localized impacts due to high winds, flash flooding, and isolated tornadoes. The NWS confirmed a total of eight (8) tornado touchdowns on the evening of November 5 and the early morning hours of November 6. Confirmed were: one (1) EF0 in Hickman County and one (1) EF0 in Hickman/Maury Counties; one (1) EF1 in Wayne County; one (1) EF0 and one (1) EF1 in Lawrence County; one (1) EF2 in Bedford/Rutherford Counties with one (1) fatality reported; one (1) EF1 in Dekalb/Cannon Counties; one (1) EF2 in Coffee/Grundy Counties; and one (1) EF0 in White County. There were 46,931 customers without power at the peak of the outage. Six (6) AT&T towers were offline in Grundy County. Sumner

County responded to several swift water rescue calls due to vehicles in water. Election polling locations in several counties were required to use backup measures to ensure continuity of the election process. Several homes and buildings were damaged, including damage to a poultry farm and a cattle barn. The ARC sent emergency response vehicles to Grundy and Franklin Counties to assist impacted residents. The Grundy County Health Department was closed due to power and telephone outages. Grundy County Schools were closed for several days due to road safety concerns.

Insurance coverage for debris, emergency protective measures, and roadways is almost non-existent within the State or county structures, increasing the impact of the severe storm on the State and affected local governments. In addition, insurance coverage for the damages to electrical infrastructure is insignificant in relation to the extraordinary losses sustained by municipal utilities and electrical cooperatives.

Between January 2018 and February 2019, the State of Tennessee has expended well over \$31,000,000.00 in managing response and recovery activities for larger events, while refraining from seeking Stafford Act assistance. We believe this figure to be a highly conservative estimate, as most counties and cities do not have the staffing or resources to be able to perform simultaneous cost accounting on continuous response activities. These extraordinary State expenditures have reduced our capacity to recover from this current situation.

Given all of these factors, the severity and magnitude of the current situation is such that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and affected local governments. As a result, federal assistance under the Stafford Act is necessary to supplement the efforts and available resources of the State, local governments, disaster relief organizations, and compensation by insurance for disaster-related losses.

The State of Tennessee is therefore requesting a major disaster declaration and federal assistance to facilitate its recovery, so that we can recover sufficiently.

Sincerely,



Governor Bill Lee

Enclosures

OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13  
Enclosure A – Individual Assistance  
Enclosure B - Public Assistance FEMA-State PDA  
Additional Enclosure – Official Weather Statement