



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
P.O. BOX 001
TRENTON
08625
(609) 292-6000

CHRIS CHRISTIE
GOVERNOR

October 28, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Through: Ms. Lynn Gilmore Canton
Regional Administrator
FEMA Region II
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278-0002

Dear Mr. President:

The National Hurricane Center predicts that Hurricane Sandy will move along the New Jersey coast beginning on or about October 28, 2012 bringing the potential for severe weather conditions, including heavy rains, high winds, dangerous storm surges, and stream and river flooding that may threaten homes and other structures, and endanger lives in the State. In response to this situation, I have taken appropriate action under State law and, on October 26, 2012, directed the execution of the State Emergency Plan in accordance with Section 501(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act ("Stafford Act"). The State Emergency Operations Center was activated on October 26, 2012, and is now staffed with representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, United States Coast Guard, New Jersey Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, New Jersey Department of Human Services, and Civil Air Patrol. Additionally, on October 27, 2012, I declared a State of Emergency for the entire State. Mandatory evacuations have been ordered for barrier islands and coastal and low-lying areas in Atlantic County, Cape May County, and Ocean County.

Given the enormous potential for harm in this region, under Section 501 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207, and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.35, I request that you declare an emergency for the State of New Jersey as a result of the anticipated landfall of Hurricane Sandy.

On October 27, 2012, the National Weather Service, Philadelphia/Mt. Holly Forecast Office issued a briefing stating that Sandy is currently a Category I hurricane with a forecast track posing a direct and extremely serious threat to New Jersey. High Wind Watches, Flood Watches, and Coastal Watches have been posted for all areas of the State. When Sandy reaches New Jersey as a hurricane or strong tropical storm, the State will face sustained winds of 70 mph with higher gusts. Strong damaging sustained winds of 35 to 45 mph are projected to persist over a prolonged period between 24 and 48 hours. The storm will likely produce extremely heavy rainfall, major flooding along streams and rivers, and major coastal flooding. Flash flooding is extremely likely, and record levels of river and coastal flooding is possible in the areas impacted by the heaviest rains. Projections further indicate that a ten foot storm tide is possible along the Atlantic Coast and in the Delaware Bay. Most significantly, the National Hurricane Center indicates that the storm may make landfall in or near New Jersey. Accordingly, on October 27, 2012, the National Weather Service issued a flood watch in effect from Sunday, October 28, 2012 through October 29, 2012 for areas in the following counties: Atlantic, Cape May, Camden, Ocean, Cumberland, Monmouth, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Burlington, Salem, and Somerset.

While there are no known deaths or injuries associated with this event at this time, preparations to avoid loss of life and property have begun in earnest. Atlantic County declared a state of emergency on October 27, 2012, requesting State resources to assist residents, visitors, and their pets. Atlantic County anticipates thousands of homes, nursing homes, and businesses requiring both governmental and non-governmental agencies to open shelters and assist in evacuations, traffic movement, and road closures. Likewise, Salem County declared a state of emergency on October 26, 2012. Salem County will open a Medical Needs Shelter using County Health, Medical Reserve Corps, and Social Services assets.

To assist with these and other needs, the Red Cross, Salvation Army, and Community Food Bank of New Jersey are stocked with food and water. The Salvation Army has ten vehicles which will be operational during the storm. Mobile canteens are being stocked to distribute water to impacted areas. Disaster Recovery Crisis Counselors are ready to be deployed. NJ AmeriCorps members have been asked to assist with sheltering, post storm feeding, and administrative tasks.

As this is a request for a pre-disaster emergency declaration due to the anticipated landfall of Hurricane Sandy, no description of damages is available at this time. However, the emergency caused by the likely impact of the storm will severely impact the entire State and potentially devastate the populations and geographic areas of New Jersey's barrier islands, coastal regions, and Delaware River Basin. These areas are anticipated to suffer severe storm surge, tidal flooding, sustained heavy rains, sustained tropical force winds, and hurricane force gusts causing major coastal, river, and stream flooding, road, bridge, and business closures, evacuations, and wide-spread power outages. Significant parts of the affected population may need to be transported to safe locations for shelter and medical care.

In support of this request pursuant to the Stafford Act, the following information is provided to demonstrate the nature and amount of State and local resources that have been, or will be used, to alleviate the conditions of this disaster. First, the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management is working with State and allied partners to deploy personnel and resources to assist during the crisis. Second, all Emergency Support Function leads have been contacted to monitor their areas of responsibility and deploy resource assets as needed to support their respective operations plans. Third, all communication assets are being prepared for deployment. Fourth, State, County, and Local governments are committing emergency response resources to secure the safety of affected populations.

In addition, the New Jersey National Guard is using nearly 1,000 members of its full-time support force to conduct inventory pre-inspections at every Amory and Air Guard facility. The Guard continues to reposition equipment from Armories in Cape May and Atlantic City to the Armory in Vineland as well as the Air National Guard facility in Pomona to protect equipment and enhance the capability of the force to respond to coastal storm damage. National Guard personnel and equipment, including high water vehicles, swift water rescue teams, and search and rescue teams, are all on standby for deployment. The New Jersey National Guard is communicating with the United States Northern Command and National Guard Bureau to coordinate the arrival, if necessary, of active duty military forces.

Likewise, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has instructed the owners of over 500 high hazard and significant hazard dams to inspect their facilities ahead of the storm. The Department is also monitoring fifty-four dams that are currently under construction. Several reservoirs are being lowered to return streams to pre-release levels prior to the start of the storm. The Department has also closed all parks statewide effective at noon on October 28, 2012.

The New Jersey Department of Health activated its Command Center on October 26, 2012 and submitted a formal resource request to the Office of Emergency Management for ambulances in order to receive Emergency Medical Services support from other states. The Commissioner of the Department of Health has signed waivers to allow for greater flexibility and responsiveness to circumstances related to transport and evacuations. Acting on this guidance, two healthcare facilities, one in Somerset County and one in Salem County, have begun evacuations.

The New Jersey Department of Human Services is monitoring and facilitating the opening of emergency shelters. Eighteen of twenty-one counties have designated one or more shelters with a capacity for about 12,000 evacuees. All twenty-one Area Agencies on Aging have a disaster plan in place and are preparing to assist in evacuations, particularly around the coastline and on the Delaware Bay. The State has identified five locations, with a capacity for approximately 4,000 evacuees, to host state-supported shelters as necessary.

The New Jersey Department of Transportation is clearing leaves and debris from the tops of storm-water drain inlets along roadways, and preparing for a sustained effort to clear trees and branches from roadways.

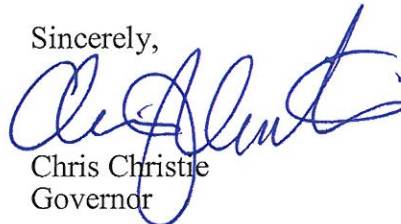
The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Fire Safety conducted conference calls with regional and county fire coordinators to discuss deployment of firefighting equipment in the event of flooding or evacuations. The Division of Codes and Standards is prepared to support local jurisdictions for post-event damage assessment and code-related inspections.

The Board of Public Utilities is coordinating with the four major electric utilities regarding their efforts to prepare for the storm. The Board has directed NJ American Water to identify all healthcare facilities serviced by the Swimming River treatment facility and to establish communications with those facilities regarding potential water supply issues resulting from the storm. The Board is also monitoring outreach from utilities to citizens and local officials.

Finally, the New Jersey Department of Children and Families has notified all child care centers, residential providers, contracted foster care agencies, and domestic violence shelters of emergency evacuation protocols.

Mr. President, on November 30, 2011, you declared a major disaster in New Jersey based on damage as a result of the severe storm on October 29, 2011, FEMA-4048-DR. New Jersey also received a Presidential major disaster declaration, DR-4070-NJ, as a result of the June 30, 2012 severe storm and straight line winds event. Because the impact of Hurricane Sandy is expected to be a State-wide event, the areas that suffered damage in the last 12 months are expected to be impacted anew. Given the budget constraints in the State of New Jersey, federal assistance with respect to the emergency protective measures required by this approaching storm is essential to protecting the public health and welfare.

Sincerely,



Chris Christie
Governor

Enclosures

ENCLOSURE C TO EMERGENCY PRELANDFALL REQUEST

Estimated Assistance from Other Federal Agency Programs

County	SBA Home Loans	SBA Business Loans	FSA Loans	NRCS	FHWA	USACE	OTHER
Totals							

Note: Provide numbers and amounts, as appropriate.

No estimated dollar figures available at this time.