



STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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February 18, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
The White House
Washington D.C. 20500

c/o Ms. MaryAnn Tierney
Administrator, FEMA Region III
615 Chestnut Street
One Independence Mall, Sixth Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106-4404

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 Delaware as a result of the nor'easter that impacted Delaware on January 22, 2016.

From January 22-24, the historic nor'easter produced large snowfall totals, damaging winds, and substantial coastal flooding across the entire State of Delaware. Winds from the storm, combined with high astronomical tides, produced particularly significant tidal flooding along sections of the Delaware coastline. Several near-record peak storm-tide elevations were recorded at U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) continuous-record tide gages, comparable with the record levels set during the 1962 Ash Wednesday Storm.

The State sustained a tidal level of 8.84 feet that resulted in flooding along low-lying coastal areas and caused substantial damage to the State's coastal dune network. Snowfall totals ranged from 2.5 - 8.8 inches in Sussex County, 9.0 - 18.2 inches in Kent County, and 10.1 - 16.3 inches in New Castle County. The State also experienced blizzard conditions in the north and maximum wind

gusts of 67.6 mph along the coast. During the event, over 50 residents had to be evacuated due to flooding, 1,000's of homes lost power, multiple major roadways were flooded throughout Sussex County, and moderate to major erosion took place along virtually all of Delaware's ocean and bay-side beaches.

In response to the situation, I took appropriate action under State law and implemented the State Emergency Operations Plan on January 22, 2016, in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act. In preparation for the storm, on January 21, I authorized the Delaware National Guard to pre-deploy their assets throughout the State and on January 22, the State Emergency Operation Center (EOC) was activated at 1500.

I declared a State of Emergency for New Castle, Kent, and Sussex counties at 1700 on January 22. In addition to the State of Emergency, I implemented a Level 1 Driving Warning for New Castle, Kent, and Sussex counties at 2400 on January 23. This was later upgraded to a Level 2 Driving Restriction, at 0800 on January 23, for Kent and New Castle counties. The Level 2 Driving Restriction was dropped to a Level I Driving Warning at 1000 on January 24 and then all warnings expired at midnight with the State of Emergency.

The State also implemented its approved Standard Mitigation Plan.

Both ground and aerial immediate threat assessments were conducted on both January 24 and January 25, for all three counties: New Castle, Kent, and Sussex to identify any immediate threats to life safety or property. An Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) in Kent and Sussex counties began on January 27 to identify preliminary damage cost estimates and continued through February 8.

A Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) was coordinated by the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) beginning February 16, 2016, with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), local, county, and state agencies to further substantiate cost estimates. I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response and recovery is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local governments and that supplementary Federal assistance is necessary. The nor'easter had the following effects on the State of Delaware:

1. There were over 10,477 customers without power at the peak of the storm.
2. Over 50 residents had to be evacuated from the coast due to tidal flooding within Kent and Sussex counties.

3. State highway department officials reported numerous roads under water, including Route 1, and several bridges sustained structural damage. Inspections and debris removal operations are ongoing.
4. Due to the proximity and size of the storm, all towns and communities across the state were affected, with particularly severe flooding and damage to the beach side communities. Both the City of Rehoboth Beach and the Town of Bethany Beach had substantial damage to their boardwalks.
5. All fire departments, police departments, local and county Emergency Operation Center's (EOCs) were fully staffed and continuously activated for multiple days during the course of the storm.
6. At least 28 homes and businesses sustained major damage or were destroyed. Additional assessments are ongoing.
7. Extensive damage to four state maintained beaches resulted in severe beach erosion and multiple dune breaches.

I am specifically requesting Public Assistance in the form of a Major Disaster Declaration for Sussex County. I am also requesting Hazard Mitigation funding be made available to all counties in the State of Delaware.

Preliminary estimates of the types and amount of assistance needed under the Stafford Act is tabulated in Enclosure B.

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:

1. State Emergency Operations Center was activated at 1500 hrs on January 22. The EOC staff responded throughout the storm and subsequently performed both ground and aerial immediate threat assessments, an Initial Damage Assessment and a Preliminary Damage Assessment with FEMA, State, and local personnel;
2. The City of Wilmington Emergency Operations Center was activated at 1900 hrs, January 22. The Kent County EOC at 2000 hrs, January 22. The New Castle County EOC at 2100 hrs, January 22. The Sussex County EOC was activated the following morning at 0600 hrs on January 23.

3. The Delaware National Guard (DNG) was activated at 2100 hrs on January 23 and provided resources and personnel to the State EOC, the county EOCs, the Wilmington EOC, and other State agencies. DNG also supplied a Blackhawk helicopter, crew, and support resources to conduct an aerial immediate threats assessment;
4. Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) was involved with numerous road and bridge closures, detours, and debris removal operations;
5. Delaware volunteer fire services responded and assisted with emergency notification, rescues, and waterborne evacuation's, throughout the event;
6. Delaware State Police (DSP) assisted by facilitating numerous road closures, providing security of evacuated areas, and maintaining access control to affected areas statewide;
7. County and municipal police departments assisted with road closures, security, and access control;
8. State, New Castle County, Kent County, Sussex County, and City of Wilmington governments coordinated resources for evacuation and the recovery of affected areas;
9. DNREC responded with an emergency assessment of damaged beaches, parks, and public waterway access points.

I certify that for this major disaster, the State and local governments will assume all applicable non-federal cost shares required by the Stafford Act. Total expenditures are expected to exceed \$2,566,979.58 in accordance with the table in State and Local Expenditures.

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 and 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 Edward A. Strouse as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in damage assessments and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,



Governor

Enclosures:

Request for Presidential Disaster Declaration

Enclosure A

Major Disaster Request

Estimated Requirements for Individual Assistance under the Stafford Act

County (list each requested county)	Assistance to Individuals and Households					Other Programs (Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Legal Services, and Crisis Counseling)
	Temporary Housing (Indicate No.)	Repairs	Replacement	Permanent Housing Construction	Other Needs Assistance	
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Totals:	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Enclosure B

Major Disaster Request

Estimated Requirements for Public Assistance under the Stafford Act

County	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
New Castle	\$0	\$90,257.24	\$0	\$0	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$130,257.24
Kent	\$0	\$80,953.68	\$0	\$0	\$176,459.38	\$0	\$302,350	\$559,763.06
Sussex	\$0	\$136,414.00	\$0	\$0	\$287,350.13	\$1,200,000	\$253,195.16	\$1,876,959.29
Totals:	\$0	\$307,624.92	\$0	\$0	\$503,809.51	\$1,200,000	\$555,545.16	\$2,566,979.59

* Estimates are to reflect total eligible costs before any cost sharing.

Category A: Debris Removal

Category B: Emergency Protective Measures

Category C: Roads and Bridges

Category D: Water Control Facilities

Category E: Buildings and Equipment

Category F: Utilities

Category G: Other (Parks, Recreational Facilities, Etc.)

Enclosure C

Major Disaster Request

Estimated Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs

County	SBA Home Loans	SBA Business Loans	FSA Loans	NRCS	FHWA	USACE	Other
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Totals:	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

* Provide Numbers and Amounts as Appropriate.

State and Local Expenditures

Major Disaster Request

Governor's Certification

I certify that for this current disaster, State and local government expenditures and obligations will include the non-Federal share of costs by the Stafford Act. As stated in my basic letter, and based on information available at this time, tabulation of these estimated expenditures and obligations are as follows:

Category of Assistance	Amount	
	State	Local
Individual Assistance	N/A	N/A
"Other Assistance" under the Individuals and Households Program	N/A	N/A
Other (specify)	N/A	N/A
Total:	N/A	N/A
Public Assistance:		
Category A – Debris Removal	\$0	\$0
Category B – Emergency Protective Measures	\$249,317.71	\$58,307.20
Category C – Roads and Bridges	\$0	\$0
Category D – Water Control Facilities	\$0	\$0
Category E – Buildings and Equipment	\$383,086.62	\$120,722.89
Category F – Utilities	\$0	\$1,200,000
Category G – Other (Parks, Recreational Facilities, etc.)	\$355,630.00	\$199,915.16
Total:	\$988,034.33	\$1,578,945.25
Grand Total:	\$988,034.33	\$1,578,945.25