



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

June 24, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Through: Gracia B. Szczech, Regional Administrator
FEMA Region IV
Federal Emergency Management Agency
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30341

RE: Request for Emergency Declaration
Surfside Building Collapse

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 (the "Stafford Act"), as implemented by 44 C.F.R. §206.35, I request that you declare an emergency for the State of Florida as a result of a major residential building collapse in Miami-Dade County. This request is timely under 44 CFR §206.35(a). I submit this request in anticipation of the continued response, rescue, and recovery efforts necessary to save lives and to protect public health and safety.

At approximately 1:23A.M. on June 24, 2021, Champlain Towers South, a 12-story multi-family housing complex, located at 8777 Collins Avenue in Surfside, Florida experienced a major structural collapse (Surfside Building Collapse). At this time, the cause of the collapse is not known. Search and rescue efforts remain ongoing. At the time of this request, this event has resulted in an unknown number of fatalities, multiple injuries, and approximately 100 individuals are currently unaccounted for. A substantial portion of the building has been destroyed and the remainder of the structure has been rendered uninhabitable, displacing 136 households and several more in surrounding buildings which have been evacuated due to safety concerns. As such, I request an Emergency Declaration for Miami-Dade County in the State of Florida to include Direct Federal Assistance, Public Assistance Category A (Debris Removal), Public Assistance Category B (Emergency Protective Measures), and all available programs under the Individual Assistance Program, to the extent this emergency qualifies for the same.

The response to the Surfside Building Collapse comes on the heels of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as five consecutive hurricane seasons in which the State has been impacted by multiple billion-dollar events. Every jurisdiction in the State of Florida has responded to and is

currently recovering from at least three federally declared events in the past five years, with most actively recovering from four events.

In the 2017 hurricane season, the State of Florida received a Major Disaster Declaration for Hurricane Irma (DR 4337-FL), followed by Hurricane Nate (EM 3395-FL) shortly thereafter. Hurricane Irma was a category four hurricane that affected the entire State and resulted in the inclusion of all 67 counties in the Disaster Declaration. Following the Hurricane Nate declaration, Florida entered into a Host-State Agreement with FEMA to provide services to Hurricane Maria survivors from Puerto Rico. FEMA has since obligated over \$2.5 billion in eligible costs to jurisdictions to recover from Hurricane Irma; however, significant costs remain unobligated, to include emergency work. Specifically, Miami-Dade applicants, to include the Town of Surfside, represent over \$431 million of this total amount in financial damages.

In the historic 2018 hurricane season, the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend Area received a Major Disaster Declaration for Hurricane Michael (DR 4399-FL), a category five hurricane. State agencies expended over \$140.9 million in support of local jurisdictions and individual survivors. The FEMA Joint Field Office estimates that it will obligate over \$3.2 billion for this event, but only \$1.81 billion has been obligated thus far. In 2019, the State was declared for Hurricane Dorian (DR 4468-FL). While costs are still being formulated, the State estimates that the total obligated costs will be over \$181.3 million, with only \$61.3 million being obligated thus far.

For the COVID-19 (DR 4486-FL), statewide Public Assistance costs are approximately \$3.6 billion, of which includes over \$577 million for Miami-Dade County applicants, to include the Town of Surfside. The State had preliminarily estimated the total costs would be approximately \$1.4 billion. The current amount has far exceeded these original anticipated figures.

A Major Disaster, DR 4564-FL, was declared because of Hurricane Sally while still responding to the pandemic. While still in the project development phase of this event, it is anticipated that obligations of eligible work will exceed \$184 million.

On June 24, 2021, I issued Executive Order No. 21-148 which directed the State Coordinating Officer to execute the State's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan in support of the Order in accordance with Section 501 of the Stafford Act.

Multiple state agencies were immediately mobilized to respond to this incident, including the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM), Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Florida Department of Health (FDOH), Department of Financial Services (DFS), Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), which are conducting day-to-day mutual aid operations in coordination and cooperation with local officials. FDEM continues to gather resource needs and requests.

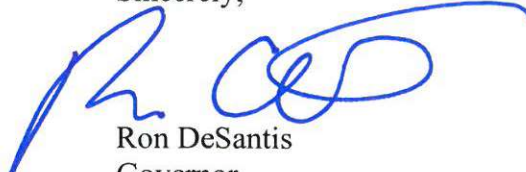
More than 130 units responded from surrounding area fire and rescue departments, including Miami-Dade, Hialeah, Broward County, Coral Gables, City of Miami, AMR, and Miami Beach. Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Task Force 1 is on scene with a Collapse Team to stabilize structure. Search and Rescue (SAR) K-9 Group and other rescue teams are on scene for search and rescue operations. A Family Reunification Center (FRC) is currently established at the

Surfside Community Center. An alternate location is being considered due to the overwhelming volume of family members arriving. Representatives from the afore-mentioned state agencies are on scene in addition to the FBI, Red Cross, Salvation Army, and Catholic Charities. Additionally, the Florida Crisis Response Team has been mobilized. The 311 Contact Center has created a webpage for reporting missing persons and a check-in for tenants of the Champlain Towers. Thus far, 729 missing person reports have been submitted and the Missing Persons Hotline has received 842 calls regarding the building collapse. Debris removal is in progress to assist search and rescue operations. The cause of the Surfside Building Collapse remains unknown.

Emergency protective measures required because of this event will require extraordinary efforts of state and local government for the continued response, rescue, and recovery efforts necessary to save lives and to protect public health and safety.

I have designated Kevin Guthrie, Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, as the State Coordinating Officer for this emergency. He is authorized to provide any further information, assurances, requests, or justification on my behalf, as well as designate additional Deputy State Coordinating Officers as necessary.

Sincerely,



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Enclosures:

Executive Order 21-148

FEMA Form 010-0-13

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 Jun 24, 2021

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.

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| 2a. Name of State (as defined in Stafford Act 102, 42 U.S.C. § 5122) or Indian tribal government requesting declaration. Florida | 2b. Population (as reported by 2010 Census) or estimated population of Indian tribal government's damaged area(s). <u>18,801,310</u> |
|---|--|

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| 3. Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Name Ron DeSantis | 4. Designation of State or Tribal Coordinating Officer upon declaration (if available) and phone number Kevin Guthrie, Director, Florida Division of Emergency Management (850) 294-8250 |
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5. Designation of Governor's Authorized Representative or Tribal Chief Executive Representative upon declaration (if available) and phone number

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

7. Incident Period: Beginning Date Jun 24, 2021 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 (rain, high water, wind-driven, rain, hail, lightning) Snowstorm (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) Major Structural Collapse

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.

At approximately 1:23 A.M. on June 24, 2021, Champlain Towers South, a 12-story multi-family housing complex, located at 8777 Collins Avenue in Surfside, Florida experienced a major structural collapse (Surfside Building Collapse). Search and rescue efforts remain ongoing. At the time of this request, this event has resulted in an unknown number of fatalities, multiple injuries, and approximately 100 individuals are currently unaccounted for. A substantial portion of the building has been destroyed and the remainder of the structure has been rendered uninhabitable, potentially displacing 136 households and dozens more in surrounding buildings which have been evacuated due to safety concerns. At this time, the cause of the partial collapse is not known.

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.

Multiple state agencies were immediately mobilized. More than 130 units responded from surrounding area fire and rescue departments, including Miami-Dade, Hialeah, Broward County, Coral Gables, City of Miami, AMR, and Miami Beach. Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Task Force 1 is on scene with a Collapse Team to stabilize structure. Search and Rescue (SAR) K-9 Group and other rescue teams are on scene for search and rescue operations. A Family Reunification Center (FRC) is currently established. Representatives from the afore-mentioned state agencies are on scene in addition to the FBI, Red Cross, Salvation Army, and Catholic Charities. Additionally, the Florida Crisis Response Team has been mobilized. The 311 Contact Center has created a webpage for reporting missing persons and a check-in for tenants of the Champlain Towers. Debris removal is in progress to assist search and rescue operations. The cause of the partial collapse remains unknown.

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)

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).

To the extent the emergency qualifies, all available Individual Assistance Programs are being requested.

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.

Miami-Dade County

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

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:
Volunteer Management (VAL), USAR SME

b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services. The scale of casualties is still unknown at this time.

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 8-24-2023

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 June 24, 2021 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

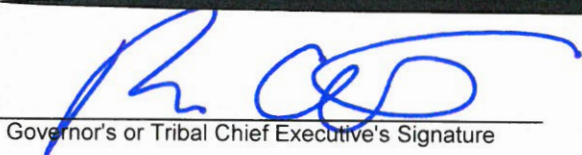
Cover Letter Enclosure A (Individual Assistance)*

Enclosure B (Public Assistance)*

Enclosure C (Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs)

Enclosure D (Historic and Current Snowfall Data)

Additional Supporting Documentation _____



Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Signature

6.24.21

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