



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

September 18, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Through: Gracia B. Szczech, Regional Administrator
FEMA Region IV
Federal Emergency Management Agency
3005 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30341

Re: Major Disaster Declaration Request
Hurricane Sally

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 (the "Stafford Act"), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request that you declare an expedited major disaster for the State of Florida as a result of Hurricane Sally in the following counties: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, Okaloosa, Walton, and Washington. This request is for all programs under Individual Assistance and all categories of Public Assistance for the Incident Period beginning September 14, 2020 and ongoing. This request is timely under 44 CFR §206.36(a). FEMA Form 010-0-13 is included with this request. I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and local governments, and that in accordance with 44 CFR 206.36, supplementary federal assistance is necessary to supplement the efforts and available resources of the State and local governments, disaster relief organizations, and compensation by insurance for disaster-related losses.

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On September 14 and 15, 2020, I issued Executive Orders 20-224 and 20-225, respectively, declaring a State of Emergency for the above-named counties due to the forecasted impacts of Hurricane Sally in Florida's Panhandle. On September 15, 2020, I directed the State Emergency Operations Center to activate to a Level 1 to coordinate response and recovery efforts. That same day, you determined that the potential effects of Hurricane Sally were of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant an Emergency Declaration authorizing Public Assistance under Category B for emergency protective measures taken to protect life and safety.

On September 15, 2020, I requested a pre-landfall Emergency Declaration because of the threat posed by the storm. You granted the request that and declared EM-3546, which covers all the counties enumerated in this subsequent request. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was authorized to provide Public Assistance Category B emergency protective measures, including direct Federal assistance for Bay, Escambia, Holmes, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, and Washington Counties. FEMA was authorized to provide Public Assistance Category B emergency protective measures, limited to direct federal assistance for Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, and Liberty Counties. This assistance was to be provided at 75 percent federal cost share. On September 17, 2020, I requested supplemental funding through the pre-landfall Emergency Declaration to include reimbursement for the all requested counties for all Category B expenses, inclusive of direct federal assistance.

I hereby incorporate by reference my supplemental pre-landfall Emergency Declaration requests, and further request that you declare a Major Disaster for the following counties impacted by Hurricane Sally for all Public Assistance Categories of Work: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, Okaloosa, Walton, and Washington. In addition to the Category B funding previously requested, I hereby request federal funding for all Emergency Work (Categories A-B) and for all Permanent Work (Categories C-G) under Public Assistance for all designated counties and funding for all Individual Assistance Programs.

The first rain bands from Hurricane Sally came ashore on Sunday, September 13, 2020. Initial forecasts predicted ten to fifteen inches of rainfall in Escambia County, with local amounts up to twenty inches. Rainfall totals in more eastern portions of Northwest and North Florida were forecasted at six to ten inches. Two to four feet of storm surge inundation was estimated from Escambia County through Okaloosa Counties.

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On September 14, 2020, the National Hurricane Center issued a hurricane warning for portions of the Florida Gulf Coast. In total, 73 watches and warnings for severe impacts from this storm were issued in Northwest and North Florida over this period.

The National Weather Service issued Flood or Flash Flood Warnings or both for Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes, Washington, Bay, Jackson, Calhoun, Gulf, Liberty, and Franklin Counties. Many Florida Northwest and North Florida rivers and streams are elevated as a result of heavy rainfall earlier this month. As a result of the recent rainfall, many Northwest and North Florida rivers are forecast to rise above flood stage and crest later in the week. Many roadways are currently closed and it is anticipated that additional roadways along these rivers will be closed, traffic re-routed, and local evacuations may be necessary to protect residential communities along the waterways.

Hurricane Sally quickly intensified to a Category 2 hurricane before making landfall along the eastern border of Alabama and Florida on September 16, 2020. The storm brought fourteen to over twenty inches of rain to much of northeast Florida, from Escambia to Bay, Washington, and Holmes Counties. Eight to twelve inches of rain were observed in a matter of hours in Jackson, Calhoun, Gulf, Gadsden, Liberty, and Franklin Counties, with local areas receiving twelve to fourteen inches or greater. Storm surge of eight and half feet was recorded in Escambia County, and sustained winds of 100 miles per hour were noted on radar.

Although the winds and rains have left the state, the panhandle's extensive waterways are now experiencing historic riverine flooding. Twelve rivers from Escambia to Liberty County are forecasted to reach moderate or major flood stage, threatening additional infrastructure, residences, and businesses in the area. River flooding from Hurricane Sally is expected to be widespread and long lasting. Moderate to major flooding is forecast to occur along the Choctawhatchee River affecting Holmes, Washington, and Walton Counties beginning today and may last through the next two weeks. Moderate to major flooding is also forecasted to occur on the Chipola and Apalachicola Rivers affecting Jackson, Calhoun, Gulf and Franklin Counties, which may also begin Thursday and continue for at least seven to fourteen days. Record crests were observed for the Shoal River in Walton County, Alaqua Creek in Walton County, Bruce Creek in Walton County, Wrights Creek in Holmes County, and Bear Creek in Bay County.

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Major or near record crests are predicted for the Shoal River in Okaloosa County, Big Coldwater Creek in Santa Rosa County, and the Blackwater River in Okaloosa County.

Riverine Flooding Impacts are as follows:

Perdido River - Escambia County

Crested at 22.3' on 9/16 (moderate flood stage). This is the 4th highest crest on record and 4' below the all time highest crest from Hurricane Georges in 1998.

Escambia River - Escambia/Santa Rosa County

Predicted crest of 24.3 (minor flood stage) on 9/18, which would be the 3rd highest crest on record. That crest is 13.5' below the all time record crest from 1929 and just below the record set from Hurricane Georges in 1998.

Big Coldwater Creek - Santa Rosa County

Crested at 21.5' on 9/17 in moderate flood stage. This represents the 2nd highest crest on record, 1.5' below the all time record crest set in March 1990.

Blackwater River - Okaloosa County

Crested at 24.49' on 9/17 (major flood stage). This represents the 5th highest crest on record, 1.21' below the all time record crest set in Hurricane Georges in 1998.

Yellow River - Okaloosa County

Crested at 13.55' on 9/17 (minor flood stage). This would represent the 11th highest crest on record, about 10' below the all time record set from Hurricane Georges in 1998.

Shoal River - Okaloosa County

Predicted crest of 19.3 on 9/17 (major flood stage), which would represent the 2nd highest crest on record set during Hurricane George in 1998.

Shoal River - Walton County

Crested at 25.65' (major flood stage) on 9/16. This is the new all time record crest, 0.92' above the previous record crest set in June 1989.

Alaqua Creek - Walton County

Crest of 59.65' on 9/16 (moderate flood stage). This is the new all time record crest, 0.08' above the previous record set in September 2015.

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Bruce Creek - Walton County

Crested at 24.53' on 9/16 (minor flood stage). This is the new all time record crest, 2.08' above the previous record set during Hurricane Ivan in 2004.

Wright's Creek - Holmes County

Crested at 20.7' (major flood stage) on 9/17. This is the new all time record crest, 3.5' above the previous record set in March of 2009.

Choctawhatchee River at Caryville - Holmes/Washington County

Forecast crest of 18.7' on 9/20. This would represent the 6th highest crest on record, 8.4' below the all time record from March 1929.

Choctawhatchee River at Bruce - Washington/Walton County

Forecast crest of 20.7' on 9/19. This would represent the 7th highest crest on record, 8.5' below the all time record from March 1929.

Econfina Creek at SR 20 - Bay County

Crested at 25.81' (moderate flood stage) on 9/17. This represents the 2nd highest crest, 26.17' on October 2018.

Econfina Creek at Bennett - Bay County

- (1) 15.61 ft on 09/01/1926
- (2) 14.98 ft on 03/03/1991
- (3) 13.74 ft on 10/12/2018

Bear Creek at US 231 - Bay County

Crested at 29.54' (moderate flood stage) on 9/16. This is the new all time record crest, 2' above the previous record set in April of 2014.

At this time, I am requesting activation of all Individual Assistance Programs and the foregoing analysis supports the inclusion of these Programs in a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Florida.

Individual Assistance

Per 44 C.F.R. 206.48(b), the factors FEMA will consider to measure the severity, magnitude, and impact of the disaster and to evaluate the need for assistance to individuals under the Stafford Act include the following:

1. State Fiscal Capacity and Resources Availability;
2. Uninsured Home and Personal Property Losses;
3. Disaster Impacted Population Profile;
4. Impact to Community Infrastructure;
5. Casualties; and
6. Disaster-Related Unemployment.

Given the nature of this event and constantly changing information, the State of Florida offers the following data to support its request and to make a showing of the presence of the above factors.

1. State Fiscal Capacity and Resources Availability

The State has currently allocated all available resources to the effort to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and is in direct support of response efforts, while experiencing significant impact to the economy of Florida. State coordination and response actions total more than \$1,000,000,000 in services and materials and supplies, not including direct expenses of local political subdivisions or supporting private entities. Resources of local governments and supporting private entities are strained and financial resources that were reasonably expected to be at the State's disposal to respond are being affected by the impact to the economy of the State. Business revenue and tax receipts are suffering and without supplemental federal assistance, the State's ability to sufficiently respond to and recover from this event will be severely impacted.

2. Uninsured Home and Personal Property Losses

Modeling produced by the Rapid Infrastructure Flood Tool (RIFT) predicts that 80,366 homes would be inundated by two or more feet of excessive rainfall in the impacted counties. In addition, 589 critical facilities would be impacted by one to three feet of flooding inundation under this same model. Initial reports and photography have revealed extensive damage along the Gulf Coast and along rivers reaching peak flood stage.

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As reported, 920 search and rescue missions were conducted in areas inundated with floods. The results of this modeling are enclosed with this letter. The imagery referenced herein is made available for your reference upon request.

Santa Rosa County reported over 100 homes with flood inundation, as well as one long-term care facility for the elderly. Okaloosa County has indicated that 700 - 800 homes have been damaged by water, and several businesses in Franklin and Liberty County reported water inside. Flooded and damaged roadways have significantly impaired assessment in many counties. Additional property loss information is found below.

3. Disaster Impacted Population Profile

Six of the thirteen counties which are the subject of this request are what is defined in Florida state law as being fiscally constrained. These fiscally constrained counties include Holmes, Washington, Jackson, Calhoun, Gulf, Franklin, Liberty and Gadsden counties. Section 218.67(1), Florida Statutes, defines fiscally constrained as, "Each county that is entirely within a rural area of opportunity as designated by the Governor pursuant to s. 288.0656 or each county for which the value of a mill will raise no more than \$5 million in revenue, based on the taxable value certified pursuant to s. 1011.62(4)(a)1.a." These counties are limited in their ability to fiscally address the significant response and recovery challenges posed by a disaster event such as this.

Bay County

Percentage of the population:	Poverty	SSI	TANF	SNAP	Home-owners	Pre-disaster Unemployed	Age 65+	Age 18 and under	Disability (under 65)
County Average	13.40%	2.62%	0.35%	15.80%	63.50%	13.10%	17.10%	21.50%	14.50%
National Average	12.30%	21.30%	---	19.00%	63.80%	14.70%	16.00%	22.40%	8.70%
State Average	14.00%	17.28%	0.31%	17.05%	65.00%	14.50%	20.50%	19.90%	8.60%

**Calhoun
 County**

Percentage of the population:	Poverty	SSI	TANF	SNAP	Home-owners	Pre-disaster Unemployed	Age 65+	Age 18 and under	Disability (under 65)
County Average	21.30%	3.86%	0.32%	17.65%	82.40%	7.50%	18.00%	20.00%	14.20%
National Average	12.30%	21.30%	---	19.00%	63.80%	14.70%	16.00%	22.40%	8.70%
State Average	14.00%	17.28%	0.31%	17.05%	65.00%	14.50%	20.50%	19.90%	8.60%

**Escambia
 County**

Percentage of the population:	Poverty	SSI	TANF	SNAP	Home-owners	Pre-disaster Unemployed	Age 65+	Age 18 and under	Disability (under 65)
County Average	14.70%	3.19%	0.55%	18.48%	61.10%	12.60%	16.80%	20.80%	11.10%
National Average	12.30%	21.30%	---	19.00%	63.80%	14.70%	16.00%	22.40%	8.70%
State Average	14.00%	17.28%	0.31%	17.05%	65.00%	14.50%	20.50%	19.90%	8.60%

**Franklin
 County**

Percentage of the population:	Poverty	SSI	TANF	SNAP	Home-owners	Pre-disaster Unemployed	Age 65+	Age 18 and under	Disability (under 65)
County Average	22.80%	2.76%	0.54%	16.32%	75.70%	10.60%	24.00%	16.10%	15.40%
National Average	12.30%	21.30%	---	19.00%	63.80%	14.70%	16.00%	22.40%	8.70%
State Average	14.00%	17.28%	0.31%	17.05%	65.00%	14.50%	20.50%	19.90%	8.60%

**Gadsden
 County**

Percentage of the population:	Poverty	SSI	TANF	SNAP	Home-owners	Pre-disaster Unemployed	Age 65+	Age 18 and under	Disability (under 65)
County Average	23.60%	5.48%	0.67%	24.94%	71.00%	7.60%	17.90%	22.00%	15.30%
National Average	12.30%	21.30%	---	19.00%	63.80%	14.70%	16.00%	22.40%	8.70%
State Average	14.00%	17.28%	0.31%	17.05%	65.00%	14.50%	20.50%	19.90%	8.60%

**Gulf
 County**

Percentage of the population:	Poverty	SSI	TANF	SNAP	Home-owners	Pre-disaster Unemployed	Age 65+	Age 18 and under	Disability (under 65)
County Average	20.30%	2.71%	0.39%	14.89%	75.30%	8.80%	21.60%	15.50%	11.10%
National Average	12.30%	21.30%	---	19.00%	63.80%	14.70%	16.00%	22.40%	8.70%
State Average	14.00%	17.28%	0.31%	17.05%	65.00%	14.50%	20.50%	19.90%	8.60%

**Holmes
 County**

Percentage of the population:	Poverty	SSI	TANF	SNAP	Home-owners	Pre-disaster Unemployed	Age 65+	Age 18 and under	Disability (under 65)
County Average	23.90%	4.44%	0.66%	22.77%	76.50%	8.50%	19.90%	20.20%	17.00%
National Average	12.30%	21.30%	---	19.00%	63.80%	14.70%	16.00%	22.40%	8.70%
State Average	14.00%	17.28%	0.31%	17.05%	65.00%	14.50%	20.50%	19.90%	8.60%

**Jackson
 County**

Percentage of the population:	Poverty	SSI	TANF	SNAP	Home-owners	Pre-disaster Unemployed	Age 65+	Age 18 and under	Disability (under 65)
County Average	23.50%	4.09%	0.58%	20.11%	71.30%	7.70%	19.50%	18.60%	13.00%
National Average	12.30%	21.30%	---	19.00%	63.80%	14.70%	16.00%	22.40%	8.70%
State Average	14.00%	17.28%	0.31%	17.05%	65.00%	14.50%	20.50%	19.90%	8.60%

**Liberty
 County**

Percentage of the population:	Poverty	SSI	TANF	SNAP	Home-owners	Pre-disaster Unemployed	Age 65+	Age 18 and under	Disability (under 65)
County Average	23.80%	3.38%	0.30%	15.33%	75.30%	6.60%	14.50%	17.90%	16.40%
National Average	12.30%	21.30%	---	19.00%	63.80%	14.70%	16.00%	22.40%	8.70%
State Average	14.00%	17.28%	0.31%	17.05%	65.00%	14.50%	20.50%	19.90%	8.60%

**Okaloosa
 County**

Percentage of the population:	Poverty	SSI	TANF	SNAP	Home-owners	Pre-disaster Unemployed	Age 65+	Age 18 and under	Disability (under 65)
County Average	12.70%	1.62%	0.25%	10.42%	63.00%	13.30%	16.30%	22.20%	10.80%
National Average	12.30%	21.30%	---	19.00%	63.80%	14.70%	16.00%	22.40%	8.70%
State Average	14.00%	17.28%	0.31%	17.05%	65.00%	14.50%	20.50%	19.90%	8.60%

**Santa Rosa
 County**

Percentage of the population:	Poverty	SSI	TANF	SNAP	Home-owners	Pre-disaster Unemployed	Age 65+	Age 18 and under	Disability (under 65)
County Average	9.50%	1.40%	0.22%	9.48%	75.40%	10.50%	16.30%	21.80%	11.00%
National Average	12.30%	21.30%	---	19.00%	63.80%	14.70%	16.00%	22.40%	8.70%
State Average	14.00%	17.28%	0.31%	17.05%	65.00%	14.50%	20.50%	19.90%	8.60%

**Walton
 County**

Percentage of the population:	Poverty	SSI	TANF	SNAP	Home-owners	Pre-disaster Unemployed	Age 65+	Age 18 and under	Disability (under 65)
County Average	11.40%	1.35%	0.31%	10.32%	74.00%	14.50%	20.20%	20.40%	11.60%
National Average	12.30%	21.30%	---	19.00%	63.80%	14.70%	16.00%	22.40%	8.70%
State Average	14.00%	17.28%	0.31%	17.05%	65.00%	14.50%	20.50%	19.90%	8.60%

**Washington
 County**

Percentage of the population:	Poverty	SSI	TANF	SNAP	Home-owners	Pre-disaster Unemployed	Age 65+	Age 18 and under	Disability (under 65)
County Average	22.80%	3.35%	0.37%	15.16%	77.50%	9.80%	17.20%	19.90%	13.60%
National Average	12.30%	21.30%	---	19.00%	63.80%	14.70%	16.00%	22.40%	8.70%
State Average	14.00%	17.28%	0.31%	17.05%	65.00%	14.50%	20.50%	19.90%	8.60%

Emergency protective measures required as a result of this event require extraordinary efforts of state and local government. With thousands of our citizens fighting COVID-19, we anticipate the need for shelters to be greater than usual, which results in increased resource requirements. Even healthy populations sheltered in traditional congregate shelters will require PPE and the implementation of mitigation measures against the spread of COVID-19 in such environments. Special needs shelters and isolation facilities will be used in greater numbers than for previous events due to the prevalence of COVID-19 in the State.

4. Impact to Community Infrastructure

A. Roads, Bridges, and Airports

The following road closures were reported to the State Emergency Operations Center:

Bay County

- Business U.S. 98 near Arizona Chemical Company is closed due to flooding.
- S.R. 20 from Racetrack Road to S.R. 77 is closed due to flooding.
- 45% of secondary roads are closed due to flooding.
- Scotts Ferry Road is completely washed out.

Calhoun County

- S.R. 20 traffic is reduced to one lane at Bob Mayo Lane due to flooding.
- S.R. 20 traffic is reduced to one lane at Melvin New Grade Road due to flooding.
- S.R. 20 is closed a Juniper Creek due to flooding.

Escambia County

- Pensacola International Airport has suspended operations for all arriving and departing commercial aircraft.
- The Pensacola Bay Bridge on U.S. 98 is closed to all traffic.
- The U.S. 98 bridge over Perdido Bay remains closed.
- Three Mile Bridge has sustained significant damage and is missing a span rendering it impassable.

Holmes County

- Intermittent closures on S.R. 81 from I-10 to Windmill Road due to flooding.

Jackson County

- S.R. 73 is closed at Missouri Road due to flooding.
- Intermittent closures on S.R. 71 at Caverns Road due to flooding.
- Nine county roads are closed.

Okaloosa County

- U.S. 98 Okaloosa Island westbound travel lanes are open, the eastbound outside lane remains closed due to flooding.
- U.S. 98 at Hurlburt Field westbound lanes are closed. Eastbound travel lanes have been modified to handle two-way traffic (one eastbound and one westbound) at this time.
- I-10 Shoal River Bridge is closed due to flooding- shutting down all east and west bound travel along one of Florida's most important interstate systems.
- 10% of major county roads are closed or damaged due to flooding.

Santa Rosa County

- Garcon Point Bridge (S.R. 281) is open to limited to two-axle vehicles. Emergency service vehicles, including ambulances and fire trucks, are permitted to cross the bridge as well as sport utility vehicles, pick-up trucks, and private vehicles towing single or double axle trailers. Trucks need to continue to follow the truck detour routes.
- S.R. 281 (Avalon Blvd) is closed between I-10 and Carroll Road due to flooding.
- Eastbound U.S. 98 from Pier Road to Palmetto Street is closed due to flooding.
- Westbound U.S. 98 at Woodland Park Lane is closed due to flooding.

Walton County

- Major road damage due to flooding.

Washington County

- S.R. 277 from Pioneer to Clayton Road remains closed due to flooding.
- All county roads are closed.

B. Schools

RIFT modeling predicts that 59 public and private schools and colleges would be damaged by one to three feet of flooding. Six public schools have reported inundation thus far. As of September 17, 2020, schools are closed in Bay, Escambia, Gulf, Holmes, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, Washington, Franklin counties.

C. Power Outages

As of September 17, 2020, power outage information reported to the State Emergency Operations Center include:

County	Number of Accounts	Current Number Out	% of County Total	Estimated Restoration (Hours)
Bay	113,243	50	.04%	<24
Calhoun	6,796	0	0%	N/A
Escambia	157,949	135,524	85.8%	TBD
Franklin	10,895	0	0%	N/A
Gadsden	22,491	0	0%	N/A
Gulf	11,045	0	0%	N/A
Holmes	10,581	13	.12%	TBD
Jackson	25,446	0	0%	N/A
Liberty	4,059	0	0%	N/A
Okaloosa	110,656	11,731	10.6%	>72
Santa Rosa	82,861	39,341	47.48%	TBD
Walton	64,872	586	.9%	>72
Washington	13,362	0	0%	N/A
Totals	634,256	187,245	29.52%	

5. Casualties

There are thankfully no casualties as a result of Hurricane Sally. There are ongoing search and rescue operations in the impacted areas. Escambia County reported 377 water rescues on September 16, 2020. Okaloosa County reported 543 residents needing rescue before the storm had even left the area. The State is continuing to monitor and coordinate these efforts through the State Emergency Operations Center. USAR Task Force 5 and 3 are currently staged in Crestview with OK Task Force 1, TN Task Force 1, Ambulance Strike Team 1 and Engine Strike Team 1.

6. Disaster-Related Unemployment

Florida's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 11.3 percent in July 2020, up 1.0 percentage point from the revised June 2020 rate, and up 8.2 percentage points from a year ago. There were 1,125,000 jobless Floridians out of a labor force of 9,975,000. The U.S. unemployment rate was 10.2 percent in July. Florida's seasonally adjusted total nonagricultural employment was 8,465,700 in July 2020, an increase of 77,900 jobs (+0.9 percent) over the month. The state lost 497,700 jobs over the year, a decrease of 5.6 percent. July labor statistics reflect the continued effects of COVID-19 and the efforts to reopen businesses and services.

Many of the structures along the Gulf coast affected by Hurricane Sally are commercial structures that support a significant tourism industry. It is anticipated that this disaster event will have a negative impact on an already tenuous job outlook for many of the affected areas. While Florida did take advantage of the Lost Wages Assistance grants provided by Executive Order through FEMA, those benefits are limited and set to expire soon. The response and recovery from Hurricane Sally will long outlast the limited assistance currently provided.

Public Assistance

There have been significant infrastructure and public facility damage in the requested counties. Debris, both coastal and inland, is significant as well as damage to roads, bridges, schools, utilities, water control facilities, parks, beaches and other public facilities. For planning purposes per-landfall, the US Army Corps of Engineers projected over 1.1 Million CY of debris for the Hurricane Sally event in FL. Numbers reported out of Santa Rosa alone reflect this amount. Santa Rosa county conducted windshield assessments with their debris technical advisors and are reporting 800,000-1.1 million cubic yards of debris, with more expected. Escambia county is preliminarily reporting 2.5 million cubic yards of debris, with assessments ongoing. Florida Department of Transportation is preliminarily reporting 300,000 CY only on their rights-of-way in Escambia county.

Navigable waterways throughout the area to include Pensacola Bay, the Intercoastal Waterway, Perdido Bay, as well as the Gulf of Mexico will require significant recovery of damaged and derelict vessels. While it is expected that some of these vessels will be able to be recovered utilizing insurance and other resources of the vessel owner, it is expected that abandoned and derelict vessels will remain in the waterways causing hazards to navigation and requiring governmental action.

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Communications in the area have been impacted significantly. A communications strike team from Nassau County is deployed to Escambia county along with a 100 ft mobile tower package. Antennas and microwave backhaul for 5-10 towers have been damaged or are missing with additional towers being assessed. Additional capacity was also dispatched from Tallahassee to support first responder communications and search and rescue teams.

In Liberty County, the Jackson Bluff Dam is at the 23 -24-foot level of the Ochlockonee River. The roadway at the foot of the HWY 20 Bridge over Ochlockonee River was overtaken, as well as small pass over bridges on HWY 67 near Florida 13. Franklin county has damage to their sewerage infrastructure and power outages at their lift stations. Sewage is backing up into homes as a result. Emergency power support has been moved into the area and ESF-8 is monitoring for any resulting public health issues.

Walton County is reporting a seawall has collapsed estimated to be approximately \$2,000,000 in damage. Walton County is also reporting damage to 5 schools. The extent of the damage is not completely known at this time, but schools remained closed. In Santa Rosa county public infrastructure has been damaged, with the Navarre Beach Fire Station having to be evacuated on an emergency basis during the storm. The Santa Rosa 911/PSAP was damaged and had to activate its COOP plan to their alternate location.

Escambia County is experiencing significant fuels issues. Many stations are out of fuel and, other are without power. Fuel has been pumped gas out of stations without power and transferred to those that had it to be able to pump. There are lines for gasoline for vehicles and generators throughout the county. With 80% plus power still out in Escambia, fuel is the critical resource. In support of survivors, 13 PODS have been requested to support survivors, including 9 Escambia PODS and 4 in Santa Rosa. Additional federal survivor support is critical and long-term recovery will be extensive.

Okaloosa is reporting road and bridges being undercut and scouring has occurred. Assessment teams are currently assessing extent and nature of the damage. Okaloosa county also has a significant number of dirt county roads that are maintained by the County and yet have experienced significant damage due to this catastrophic event.

Jackson County, although more rural and farther west from the center of the Hurricane, has experienced major flooding and significant rainfall amounts. At least 9 roads are closed and have been damaged.

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Jackson County was the epicenter of Florida's most recent catastrophic tropical event, Hurricane Michael. Recovery from that Category 5 hurricane is actively ongoing, and additional damages from Hurricane Sally will further complicate recovery and exacerbate damage that has not yet been repair from that previous, historic event.

With the overlay of COVID to this tropical weather event, traditional damage assessments are more difficult to accomplish. The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) utilized hydrodynamic modeling to attempt to display impacts from Hurricane Sally. The attached flood area forecast was produced by the Rapid Infrastructure Flood Tool (RIFT), a two- dimensional hydrodynamic model developed to quickly produce flood estimates for multiple types of flooding. RIFT has been used extensively to model the impacts of inundation caused by elevated river stages, dam breaks, and extreme rainfall events. Similar to other numerical models, RIFT results may be sensitive to the representation of antecedent conditions, event parameterization, and the spatial and temporal resolution of input data. To address these concerns, the RIFT modeling team uses the best available data from state and federal government sources as well as the latest event forecasts from NOAA operational models. Any error or uncertainty that is within those data and forecasts is not addressed within RIFT.

The response to Hurricane Sally comes after five consecutive hurricane seasons in which the State has been impacted by multiple million, and in some cases, multiple billion-dollar storms, all while in the midst of the largest disaster event managed by FEMA and the State of Florida, the COVID-19 Pandemic/Public Health Emergency. 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. All counties are currently under state and federal declarations of emergency for the COVID-19 event.

In 2016, the State received a Major Disaster Declaration for Hurricane Hermine (DR 4280-FL) and 10 days later was declared for Hurricane Matthew (DR 4283-FL). For these two events State agencies reported \$43.3 million in expenditures. For Hurricane Hermine, FEMA has obligated in eligible costs over \$74 million and over \$490 million for Hurricane Matthew. 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.

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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 \$2.2 billion in eligible costs to jurisdictions to recover from Hurricane Irma; however, hundreds of millions in costs remain unobligated, to include emergency work.

In the historic 2018 hurricane season, the Florida Panhandle – including the counties of this request – and the 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 \$3.5 billion for this event, but only \$1.21 billion has been obligated thus far. Almost 150 households remain in FEMA direct housing. 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 \$8.6 million being obligated thus far.

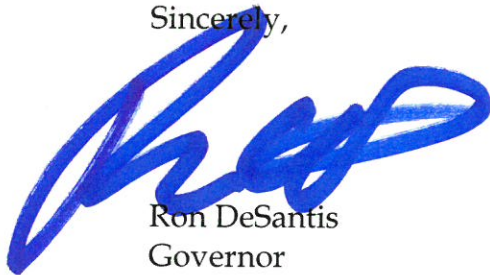
For the COVID-19 Pandemic/Public Health Emergency impacts, state agencies are reporting approximately \$1.59 billion in expenditures, which does not include county expenditures. While costs are still being formulated, the State had preliminarily estimated the total obligated costs would be approximately \$1.4 billion. This amount will clearly be exceeded with the Public Health Emergency recently being renewed and the State still being heavily involved in response activities to the event. The overlay of this tropical event to the COVID-19 Pandemic will stress the capabilities of the State to respond fully to the tropical event without the addition of the requested federal assistance.

On September 14, 2020, I issued Executive Order No. 20-224, as amended also by No, 20-225, 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. At the time of this Order and this request, 666,507 Florida residents have been diagnosed with COVID-19, over 42,047 have been hospitalized, and 13,086 have died as a result of the virus. Sheltering operations during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency require that Florida consider additional strategies to ensure that survivors are sheltered in a manner that does not increase the risk of exposure to, or further transmission of, COVID-19.

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I have designated Jared Moskowitz, 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. I have designated Jared Moskowitz, Kevin Guthrie, and Allison McLeary as Governor's Authorized Representatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron DeSantis", is written over the typed name and title.

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Enclosures:
RIFT Modeling Data

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 **Sep 18, 2020**

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.

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 Jared Moskowitz, Director FL Division of Emergency Management (850) 815-4100
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5. Designation of Governor's Authorized Representative or Tribal Chief Executive Representative upon declaration (if available) and phone number
Kevin Guthrie, Deputy Director, FL Division of Emergency Management (850) 294-8250

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

7. Incident Period: Beginning Date Sep 14, 2020 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 Snowstorm (Must include Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data) Straight-Line Winds

(rain, high water, wind-driven, rain, hail, lightning)

Tidal Wave Tornado Tropical Depression Tropical Storm Tsunami Volcanic Eruption Winter Storm

Other (please specify) _____

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.

Hurricane Sally intensified to a Category 2 hurricane before making landfall along the eastern border of Alabama and Florida on September 16, 2020. The storm brought fourteen to over twenty inches of rain to much of northeast Florida, from Escambia to Bay, Washington, and Holmes Counties. Eight to twelve inches of rain were observed in a matter of hours in Jackson, Calhoun, Gulf, Gadsden, Liberty, and Franklin Counties, with local areas receiving twelve to fourteen inches or greater. Storm surge of eight and half feet was recorded in Escambia County, and sustained winds of 100 miles per hour were noted on radar.

The significant, extreme flooding and flash flooding expected from this event will give rise to the need for emergency protective measures and emergency debris operations to be undertaken in the requested counties.

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.

Actions undertaken in preparation for Hurricane Sally's impacts include the establishment of a Logistical Staging Area to support operations in the area and the opening of one state supported NCS shelter/hotel in Escambia county. Additional state supported NCS shelters are identified and ready to be activated as the additional need arises. The Florida National Guard has been activated for this event and over 500 guard personnel have been deployed, with an additional 500 ready to be activated as needed. The National Guard also has 28 boats ready to deploy, to include V-hulls and zodiacs as well as 25 Light-Medium Tactical Vehicles (LMTV). Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission has mobilized 40 flat-bottom and other rescue boats, as well as high-water vehicles to the area. Task Forces with swift water rescue capabilities from around the state have been deployed. To support survivors and responders, the State has 30 truckloads of bottled water and 4 truckloads of food staged. Pumps staged statewide are being relocated to the area.

10. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment*

Individual Assistance Dates Performed Requested Sep 18, 2020 Start _____ End _____

Individual Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)
 Search and rescue missions are ongoing. Areas of accessibility are reflected in the Major Declaration Request Letter.

Public Assistance Dates Performed Requested Sep 18, 2020 Start _____ End _____

Public Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)
 Search and rescue missions are ongoing. Areas of accessibility are reflected in the Major Declaration Request Letter.

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).

Six of the thirteen counties which are the subject of this request are what is defined in Florida state law as being fiscally constrained. These fiscally constrained counties include Holmes, Washington, Jackson, Calhoun, Gulf, Franklin, Liberty and Gadsden counties. These counties are limited in their ability to fiscally address the significant response and recovery challenges posed by a disaster event such as this. Modeling produced by the Rapid Infrastructure Flood Tool (RIFT) predicts that 80,366 homes would be inundated by two or more feet of excessive rainfall in the impacted counties. In addition, 589 critical facilities would be impacted by one to three feet of flooding inundation under this same model. Initial reports and photography have revealed extensive damage along the Gulf Coast and along rivers reaching peak flood stage. As reported, 920 search and rescue missions were conducted in areas inundated with floods. The results of this modeling are enclosed with this letter. The imagery referenced herein is made available for your reference upon request. Santa Rosa County reported over 100 homes with flood inundation, as well as one long-term care facility for the elderly. Okaloosa County has indicated that 700 - 800 homes have been damaged by water, and several businesses in Franklin and Liberty County reported water inside. Flooded and damaged roadways have significantly impaired assessment in many counties. Additional property loss information is found below. There are significant road closures in Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Holmes, Jackson, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, and Washington counties. Additionally, schools have been closed as of September 17. P

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes in the requested counties (if applicable).
 Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida and Seminole Tribe of Florida

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.

The following Counties: Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Liberty, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, and Washington

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes included in the requested counties (if applicable).
 Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida and Seminole Tribe of Florida

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:

- Health and Human Services (HHS) • US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) • US Coast Guard (USCG) • FEMA
- o Mass Care support, shelter support/staffing, meals, water, food resources, pumping and debris operations support, search and rescue support

b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services. **The scale at which mass care support would be needed for congregate and non-congregate shelters requires the addition of federal resources. The USACE and USCG resources for large scale flooding and search and rescue support. The scale of debris removal is of the magnitude which requires federal resources.**

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 Sep 14, 2020 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

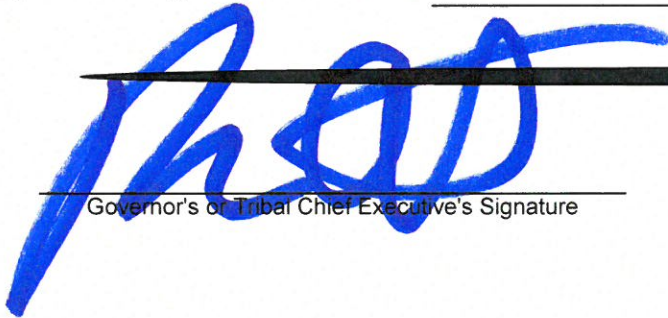
Cover Letter Enclosure A (Individual Assistance)*

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

9/18/20
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