



BILL LEE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF TENNESSEE

September 27, 2024

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

Through: Mr. Robert D. Samaan
Regional Administrator FEMA Region IV
3005 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341

Mr. President:

As a result of the ongoing emergency conditions in Tennessee from heavy rainfall and Hurricane Helene, the state of Tennessee is requesting an Emergency Declaration, Categories A and B, including Direct Federal Assistance, in order to enhance life-saving capabilities and implement needed emergency protective measures. Multiple counties in eastern Tennessee are experiencing unprecedented flooding which has resulted in the loss of major transportation infrastructure, healthcare facilities, communications infrastructure, and homes and businesses. This request for Direct Federal Assistance should be coordinated with the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Lee".

Bill Lee
Governor

Enclosures: OMB No. 1660-0009/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 06/30/2026

1. Request Date Sep 27, 2024

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.

Tennessee

2b. Population (as reported by 2020 Census) or estimated population of Indian tribal government's damaged area(s). 6,910,840

3. Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Name

Bill Lee, Governor

4. Designation of State or Tribal Coordinating Officer upon declaration (if available) and phone number

Patrick C. Sheehan, Director, TEMA, Military Department, 615.741.9987

5. Designation of Governor's Authorized Representative or Tribal Chief Executive Representative upon declaration (if available) and phone number

Patrick C. Sheehan, Director, TEMA, Military Department, 615.741.9987

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

7. Incident Period: Beginning Date End Date

Sep 26, 2024

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

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.

The remnants of tropical cyclone Helene is causing widespread damages across Tennessee, especially in the eastern portion of the State. The Unicoi County Hospital is inundated with flood waters and patients/staff are being evacuated and those evacuations are being complicated by the Nolichucky River rising rapidly with debris; local officials in Washington County have told Embreeville residents to evacuate; Hawkins County officials have told residents to shelter-in-place; and there are reports of individuals standing on roofs around Carter County. An estimated 6 to 10 inches of rain has fallen across the mountainous terrain of eastern Tennessee over the past 48 hours and the heaviest rains will shift over the middle and western Tennessee later today. As of 11:30am CDT, over 75,500 power outages were reported statewide. Rain fall is expected to continue throughout the weekend.

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.

On 9/26/2024, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) elevated to a Level 4 (monitoring) to prepare for potential impacts from the remnants of tropical cyclone Helene and on 9/27/2024 at 12:00pm CDT, Tennessee declared a State of Emergency and the SEOC was elevated to a Level 3 (state of emergency) due to widespread life safety needs. The SEOC is currently staffed with representatives from the TN Department of Transportation, TN Department of Human Services, American Red Cross, TN National Guard, TN Department of Safety, TN Department of General Services, TN Department of Health, FEMA Region 4 FIT, and multiple other organizations. Local, state, national guard, and out-of-state response resources, including swift water rescue teams and helicopter rescue teams, have been deployed to assist with life saving efforts. The SEOC is currently coordinating 20 active resource requests and those requests continue to grow exponentially.

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.

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.

This is a developing situation, but the majority of impacts are currently seen throughout Northeastern Tennessee. Specific counties reporting major impacts and life safety needs include Unicoi, Washington, Hawkins, Carter, Cocke, and Johnson County.

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

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:

Helicopter rescue support and assistance on debris removal operations to include technical monitoring and mentoring to affected areas.

b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services. Ongoing needs from previous declarations has limited available resources for this type of assistance.

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 October 2, 2028 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 27, 2024 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

9/27/2024

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