



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STEVEN L. BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

700 CAPITOL AVENUE
SUITE 100
FRANKFORT, KY 40601
(502) 564-2611
FAX: (502) 564-2517

August 11, 2009

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20502-0001

Through: Mr. Major P May
Regional Administrator
FEMA Region IV
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road
Atlanta, Georgia, 30341

Dear President Obama:

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 you declare a major disaster for the Commonwealth of Kentucky as a result of severe storms, strong straight line winds, heavy rain and flooding that occurred on August 4, 2009 and continuing. Additionally, I am requesting that this major disaster declaration be established immediately for Individual Assistance due to the magnitude of devastation, the documented suffering and the continued lack of basic essential services (food, water and power) to a significant portion of Louisville's metropolitan residents. This devastating event is compounded by the fact that the storm caused the fourth major disaster in the Commonwealth of Kentucky this year with it being the second for Jefferson County. Jefferson County was also impacted by FEMA 1818 DR.

Beginning on August 4, 2009 and continuing, record-breaking torrential rains fell in Jefferson and surrounding counties in Kentucky and caused flash flooding in Jefferson County. Record amounts up to 6 inches fell between 7am and 10am EDT especially in central Louisville. Five inches fell in 90 minutes from 7:45 am to 9:15 am, and rainfall rates up to an astounding 8.80 inches per hour were reported. The flooding waters and power outages left large groups of people, including the elderly and medically fragile without essential services. At least 20,000 Louisville Gas and Electric (LG&E) customers of economically disadvantaged residents lost power and/or daily food and water supplies. Heavy rains, swollen streams and a wet saturated ground from the earlier rains overwhelmed the capacity of Jefferson County's drainage systems, rivers and streams and resulted in widespread flooding and sewage backup. In Louisville nearly 200 people were rescued by emergency workers from the tops of cars and houses. About 50 people were rescued by boat from the University of Louisville administrative office. Cars were submerged



in many downtown parking lots. Interstate 65 and 264 were closed. Fire crews responded to nearly 200 calls for water rescues. Lightning sparked at least two apartment fires in Jefferson County and briefly knocked out emergency communications. Floodwaters poured into basements. Sewage backed up into homes through floor drains, sinks, bathtubs and even engulfed Louisville's main public library. Several area hospitals and the University of Louisville campus were also impacted with tons of debris left to clean up.

In response to this situation, I have taken appropriate action under State law, issuing an Executive Order EO 2009-756 for a State of Emergency for the Commonwealth of Kentucky and directed the execution of the Kentucky Emergency Operations Plan, in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act.

Local officials in Jefferson County issued an emergency declaration and have taken all appropriate actions to assure a timely emergency response, including rescues, evacuations, shelter operations, and restoration of vital public services.

On August 5, 2009 the Commonwealth requested and was approved by FEMA R-IV for Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments for eligibility for Individual Assistance in Jefferson County and also for Public Assistance Categories A-G for Jefferson County and Trimble Counties. Initial results have indicated severe impact across the affected county, particularly to the transportation infrastructure, hospitals, water systems, waste water systems, businesses and private and public property.

At this time, I am requesting that Jefferson County be included in this disaster declaration for the following programs: Individual Assistance, including Disaster Housing, Individual and Households Program (IHP), Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Disaster Legal Services, Crisis Counseling and Small Business Administration disaster loans. There is the likelihood of Public Assistance categories A-G for Jefferson and Trimble Counties and the possibility of others to be added. I also request Hazard Mitigation for the entire state. The Commonwealth of Kentucky has an enhanced State Mitigation Plan which was approved on June 16, 2008.

Preliminary estimates of the types and amount of assistance needed under the Stafford Act are tabulated in Enclosures A and D.

I intend to implement the Individual and Households Program (IHP) as shown in Enclosure A.

I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the Commonwealth and affected local governments, and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary. The following information is furnished on the nature and extent of state and local resources that are attempting to alleviate the damages of this disaster.

- The Kentucky Emergency Operations Center is coordinating response and relief activities among state agencies and private relief organizations for this emergency.
- The Local Emergency Operations Center within Jefferson County is activated in support of shelters, road closures, debris removal and evacuations.

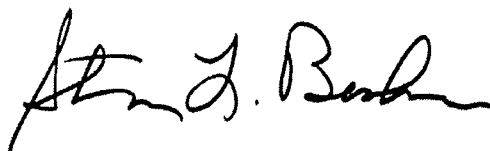
- Kentucky's Adjutant General authorized activation of Kentucky Army National Guard Units to support ongoing local emergency protective measures such as preliminary damage assessments, water rescue evacuation of people and house to house wellness checks.
- The Kentucky State Police and Department of Motor Vehicle Enforcement continue to provide security, traffic control, and management of road closures in support of local law enforcement.
- The Department for Environmental Protection continues assessing the status of drinking water facilities.
- The volunteer organizations responding, including the American Red Cross, have assisted with shelters to provide food and drinking water.

I certify for this major disaster that the Commonwealth and local governments will assume all applicable non-federal shares of costs required by the Stafford Act. Total expenditures are expected to exceed \$ 944,000.00 for Individual Assistance Programs alone. Public Assistance damage estimates have already exceeded \$18,000,000 and continue to be tabulated by a joint FEMA damage assessment team.

In addition, I anticipate the need for debris removal and emergency infrastructure repairs, which pose 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 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 owner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

I have designated BG John W. Heltzel as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven L. Beshear". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steven L. Beshear

Enclosures

ENCLOSURE A TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Requirements for Individual Assistance
The Stafford Act

County	Temporary Housing <i>(Indicate No.)</i>	Individual and Family Grants		Disaster Unemployment Assistance		Other
		<i>(Indicate No. and dollar amount)</i>		<i>(Indicate No. and dollar amount)</i>		
<i>County Name</i>		<i>No.</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>\$</i>	
Jefferson	183	295	944,000	0	0	
Totals:		295	\$944,000.00	0	0	

Footnote: As of 8/11/09 IA assessment ongoing. Above figures are a partial assessment.

ENCLOSURE B TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Requirements for Public Assistance
The Stafford Act

CATEGORY

County	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Totals:								

Footnotes: *Estimates are to reflect total eligible costs before any cost sharing.
Add footnotes as appropriate to clarify these requirements.*

ENCLOSURE C TO 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 required 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:		
Housing	0	0
Individual and Family Grants	\$ 236,000.00	0
Other (specify)		
Total:		
Public Assistance:		
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.)		
Total:		
Grand Total:	\$236,000.00	0

Note: Damage Assessment ongoing. Figures reflect partial assessment as of 8/11/2009.

