



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

September 5, 2008

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

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

RE: Request for Emergency Declaration for Hurricane Ike

Dear President Bush:

Under the provisions of Section 501(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5206 and §§ 5191-5193 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.35, I request that you declare an emergency for the State of Florida as a result of Hurricane Ike, forecasted to hit the Florida peninsula in the coming days. In combination with the damage caused by Tropical Storm Fay to the state, this request is based on findings that supplementary federal emergency assistance is necessary to launch emergency protective measures to eliminate or reduce an immediate threat to life, public health or safety and assist other states in Ike's path. Until such time that other damages may qualify for supplemental federal assistance, the state specifically requests 100% federal funding for the first 72 hours for Public Assistance, Category A and B, to include direct federal assistance for the entire state.

Pursuant to 44 CFR § 206.35, I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and affected local governments, and that supplementary federal assistance (Categories A - B under the Public Assistance program) and direct federal assistance is necessary to save lives and to protect property, public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a disaster. Recovery operations from Tropical Storm Fay are still ongoing and these operations are expected to

continue for the next few months. To date, state agencies have expended more than \$38 million in response to Fay. It is anticipated that Hurricane Ike will threaten Florida communities with the extreme weather conditions on or about September 8, 2008.

Preliminary estimates of the types and amount of emergency assistance needed under the Stafford Act, and emergency assistance from certain federal agencies under other statutory authorities are tabulated in Enclosure A.

I request direct federal assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property because the response to Tropical Storm Fay has taxed local and state emergency responders as well as local and state coffers. The State Emergency Response Team ("SERT"), which fully activated on August 18, 2008, is now entering its fourth week of response and recovery operations. Half of the SERT has been deployed to the Joint Field Office to handle recovery operations in response to Fay and the other half remains in Tallahassee to monitor and respond to Hurricane Ike. In light of Fay, Hurricane Ike lurks to the east and is forecasted to impact the eastern coastline of the Florida peninsula. In combination with ongoing statewide recovery operations and the possibility of being impacted by this storm, I have initiated the following to alleviate the conditions of this emergency:

- On September 5, 2008, I declared a state of emergency in response to Hurricane Ike. See Executive Order attached.
- Activated the state Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
- Activated the State Emergency Response Team which has overall state coordination for state and regional response activities.
- State shelter and mass care planning cells have been activated and are coordinating with volunteer organizations and identifying sheltering and mass care resource support including special needs shelter requirements and general population sheltering operations for evacuees.
- Identified Incident Management Teams and placed them on standby.
- Identified Florida National Guard personnel and equipment to support potential evacuation, shelter team management and search and rescue.
- Conducting inventory of all state-wide Search and Rescue (SAR) capability and determining availability for maximum deployment of all state SAR assets.

- Review of fuel availability and additional fuel need requirements along coastal and evacuation routes.
- State Logistics Response Center has been activated and a logistics cell is operational and preparing execution of emergency equipment and commodities including water and food contracts with vendors.

In accordance with 44 CFR § 206.208, the State of Florida agrees that it will, with respect to direct federal assistance:

1. Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easement, 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 Agreement; and
4. Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

I certify that for this emergency, the state and local governments will assume all applicable non-federal shares of the costs required by the Stafford Act. If the state needs debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health and safety:

Pursuant to Sections 502 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5192 & 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 W. Craig Fugate as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide damage assessments and further information or justification on my behalf.

Again, I sincerely appreciate your hard work and that of the many dedicated FEMA employees assisting Florida in response to Tropical Storm Fay.

As we prepare for Ike, thank you in advance for your continued support and recognition of the threat that this storm poses to the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie Crist". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a stylized "Crist" following.

Charlie Crist

Enclosure

cc: W. Craig Fugate, State Coordinating Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thank you." in a cursive, flowing script.