



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

**REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION
GOVERNOR'S REQUEST COVER LETTER
MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY**

October 28, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Through: Ms. Mary Ann Tierney
Regional Administrator, Region III
Federal Emergency Management Agency
One Independence Mall, Sixth Floor
615 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5206 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.35, I request that you declare an emergency for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a result of the approach of Hurricane Sandy and associated extra-tropical weather events that are predicted to bring extremely severe weather to the entire Commonwealth. The effects of this threat are being felt as of October 26, 2012.

In preparation for this event, I issued a statewide proclamation of disaster emergency pursuant to state law on October 26, 2012, and directed the activation of all applicable state, county and municipal emergency plans. I acknowledge that this pre-landfall declaration request is limited to Category A for debris removal and Category B for Emergency Protective Measures, including Direct Federal Assistance.

I certify that for this emergency, the Commonwealth and local governments will assume all applicable non-federal share costs as required by the Stafford Act.

The expected weather event includes extremely heavy rain and flooding including potential tidal flooding in the City of Philadelphia (the fifth-largest city in the United States), snow in the higher elevations, and hurricane-force winds throughout the Commonwealth. These events, coupled with leafy trees and wet ground are expected to lead to downed power lines, significant power outages, and heavy damage to buildings and facilities including numerous federal military facilities, buildings, Veterans Administration hospitals, and Pennsylvania's center of government in Harrisburg. The impact of these events upon the citizens of the Commonwealth will be heavily felt.

I have directed and committed all commonwealth assets to be made available for response and recovery efforts. The following compilation details the state and local resources that either have been or will be used initially in assisting communities to alleviate the conditions of this disaster emergency:

- The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) is elevated to an enhanced state of readiness to facilitate the deployment of state resources to areas potentially affected. The SEOC has established enhanced staffing at SEOC headquarters as well as at the three area offices of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), and will continue to deploy additional personnel and resources as needed to coordinate assets, share information, and maintain situational awareness.
- Additional Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) personnel to include Community Relations staff and FEMA Corps members will be deployed to all county EOCs to assist in response and recovery operations.
- Pennsylvania's five nuclear power plants have been notified and briefed and their respective emergency response organizations are aware of their expectations.
- PEMA is pre-deploying and pre-positioning swift water rescue teams to Chester and Montgomery counties. PEMA has pre-deployed and pre-positioned state Incident Management Teams (IMTs) to Harrisburg and Lewistown.
- At PEMA's request, FEMA is pre-deploying and pre-positioning USAR PA-1 to the Philadelphia area.
- PEMA has identified a need for additional Incident Management Teams. Two Advance Teams from the State of Louisiana have been requested and are being provided through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). They are NIMS Type-IV Advance Teams (A-Teams), and will be used to coordinate with Pennsylvania operations to generate and broadcast daily situation reports and maintain deployment schedules.
- The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) has completed mobilization plans. PennDOT is preparing to implement speed restrictions and commercial vehicle restrictions due to the high winds. PennDOT is also prepared to implement debris removal and other emergency support measures
- Effective October 28, 2012, AMTRAK has restricted service in the cities of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority (SEPTA) has begun posting weather related advisories affecting light rail and bus service routes.
- The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission has its contractors implementing 24 hour patrols on all construction zones and securing equipment because of anticipated high winds.
- The Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs has received several mission requests from the Philadelphia area and has begun planning for them. These requests include two Striker Teams and personnel for Chester County and six teams in Montgomery County.
- The Pennsylvania State Police Watch Center has increased staffing to relay information to the field.
- The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission is coordinating with utilities to prepare for this event. A number of crews are preparing to move today.
- The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has all of its Emergency Response Teams on standby. All offices are stocked with well water test kits, and DEP offices will survey all treatment plants on Monday, October 29, 2012. An administrative team has been established at headquarters. The identification of high risk dams across the impacted areas and regions have been performed with instructions to review preparation, readiness, and response plans issued.
- The United States Army Corps of Engineers has delivered a 200-foot inflatable dam wall to Montour to close an unprotected section of the levee in Danville. This device is required to prevent possible flooding to the Danville Middle School, Danville Sewer Plant, and businesses. These facilities were severely damaged by Tropical Storm Lee.

- The Department of Health (DOH) is conducting coordination calls and pushing out Situation Reports to all partners. The Department Operations Center will be activated. One Medical Surge Equipment Cache Trailer has been assigned to the Chester County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council.
- The Department of Agriculture has County Animal Response Teams (CART) on standby. An “Hours of Service Waiver” is being developed with PennDOT to be used for recovery, and a network for mass feeding in the impacted areas has been established.
- The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has been requested to provide staffing and capabilities for a clean-up chain saw crew. Civil Air Patrol (CAP) was requested to provide a listing of debris removal assets. Additional federal support is requested from wildfire teams to support debris efforts.
- A Pennsylvania Helicopter Aerial Rescue Team (PA HART) has been placed on alert.
- Pennsylvania is assisting New Jersey with sheltering needs as well as addressing Pennsylvania’s sheltering needs.
- I am requesting 300,000 cots to be used in shelters. I am also requesting 2,500 individuals to staff 100 shelters that will be needed to house survivors.
- Based on the United States Army Corps of Engineers modeling of this storm, over 3.9 million people reside in the projected path of Hurricane Sandy. That is nearly 25 percent of the population of Pennsylvania, with the storm concentrating on the heavily populated southeast region including the City of Philadelphia.
- There are 858 schools located in the path of Hurricane Sandy. Many of these structures are used as emergency evacuation shelters, but because of this situation they will be unsafe to be utilized for school resumption or shelters. I am requesting 200 qualified building inspectors to assist municipalities and school districts in checking the structural integrity of the schools and other buildings following the storm to determine how quickly they can be utilized for sheltering and educational purposes.
- The American Red Cross (ARC) is coordinating staff and resources to be moved. Shelters are being pre-identified and are being staffed and prepared. Shelters that have already been identified and are opening in Chester, Clinton, Delaware, Lawrence, Lebanon, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties.
- I request sufficient meals to address an adult shelter population of 300,000 for 20 days.
- I request sufficient meals to address a child shelter population of 30,000 for 20 days.
- It is estimated there is a need for an additional five million adult meals for 20 days for individuals not in shelters.
- An additional 1.5 million children’s meals for 20 days for children not in shelters.
- In addition, 50 mobile kitchens are requested for the preparation of meals.
- I am requesting 600 professionals to establish and staff Family Assistance Centers throughout the counties to assist in coordinating family briefings on status of relatives.
- Because an event of this magnitude tends to cause a number of fatalities, mortuary services and the ability to provide timely identification of the deceased will be strained, I am requesting a Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (DMORT). The United States Department of State assistance is requested for international visitors who are injured or die in the event.
- There are 82 Pennsylvania hospitals in the storm pathway including level one trauma centers. In anticipation of the thousands of injuries resulting from the storm as well as those patients who may require evacuation from impacted hospitals to safer treatment areas, Pennsylvania is requesting 20 field hospitals to support patient treatment and care.

- Storm path modeling identifies 404 fire stations exposed to this event. I am requesting 50 military firefighting teams and their equipment be made available to assist in providing life safety operations to the impacted area given the fact that many of these stations are staffed by volunteers and response crews may have their own homes and businesses impacted and not be available.
- Because seven percent of the nation's fuel supply comes from refineries located in Philadelphia, I am initially requesting a million gallons of diesel fuel and two million gallons of gasoline to support debris operations, generators, and emergency response vehicles.
- Pennsylvania has 446 nursing homes all of whom are going to be faced with challenges as to where to place residents out of harm's way. Some of these residents would normally be transported to a nearby hospital; however with 82 of our hospitals in the pathway and since 404 fire/EMS stations are in the same situation, alternate emergency care facilities and methods of transportation will prove to be a challenge. I am therefore requesting 100 support teams to assist these facilities to care for residents since many of the care providers will be impacted by the storm or will be unable to negotiate debris obstacles and not be available to report to work.
- There are 226 law enforcement agencies located in the storm path model which will hinder our ability to provide police services within the impacted areas.
- The potential of the flooding impact on wastewater treatment plants is substantial since there are 70 such facilities within the storm path. I am requesting 5,000 portable restroom and shower facilities to be made available to communities.
- Over 1.5 million households have been identified as being located within the path of Hurricane Sandy. Based on modeling, as many as 36,000 homes may sustain roof damage. I am requesting 150,000 temporary roofing repair materials be made available for distribution throughout the impacted communities to assist in minimizing additional destruction from damaged roofing.
- The magnitude of the storm has the potential of generating nearly eight million yards of debris in Pennsylvania. I am requesting chain saws, axes, drag chains, chippers, personnel and equipment capable of handling, processing, removing wood, construction, white goods, and hazardous materials be made available to the commonwealth in the most expeditious way possible. I am requesting 1,000 chain saws to be used by The National Guard working on debris removal.
- It is anticipated consumable water needs will be 45 truckloads on day one; 90 truckloads on day two, and as much as 180 truckloads on day three.
- I am requesting Health and Human Services support to the Pennsylvania Department of Health in the procurement and administering of tetanus and other inoculations and in the establishment of first aid stations throughout the impacted communities.
- United States Army Corps of Engineer and Coast Guard support is requested on the Delaware River to assist in the assessment of damage to docks, shipping lanes, and to identify and remove obstacles that may impede maritime trade and traffic.
- The United States Department of Transportation's support is requested to assist in clearing debris, inspecting bridges and highways for safe travel. Federal assistance is requested to assess and identify damages sustained at airports and mass transit in the impacted area, starting with Philadelphia International Airport.
- Disaster declarations have already been declared in multiple counties and municipalities activating Emergency Operation Plans.

Over the past 12 months, Pennsylvania experienced devastating effects from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. It was also necessary to declare a state of disaster emergency in the spring of 2012 due to significant winter storms across the northern and western regions of the Commonwealth, which impacted Pennsylvania finances and resources and those of its affected municipalities.

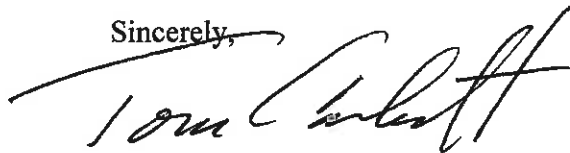
The efforts to recover from Irene and Lee are continuing through the present day, even as we prepare for the upcoming effects of Hurricane Sandy and associated weather systems. A number of communities in Pennsylvania were utterly devastated, physically and economically, by those two events. Efforts are underway to mitigate flood hazards in those communities, but the work is by no means complete. The Commonwealth continues to administer numerous Hazard Mitigation projects which stemmed from the Presidential Declarations associated with Irene and Lee. Families and businesses that were affected by those storms may well be disrupted again by the upcoming extra-tropical weather event. Repeat flooding, as well as potential loss of power and other infrastructure in vulnerable communities will require the expenditure of resources including housing, potable water, and other support that those communities may not be able to provide for themselves given the impacts they have already experienced.

It is anticipated that Pennsylvania will be left with an overwhelming amount of debris in the wake of the upcoming storm. Many communities affected by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee are still in the process of removing debris left by those storms. Additional damage and debris will overload already stretched removal resources.

The upcoming weather event is expected to be Commonwealth-wide. Pennsylvania appears at this point to be in the bulls-eye of the upcoming "perfect storm" that will result from the interaction of Hurricane Sandy with other weather systems. It is anticipated that resources will require supplementation at all levels and in all areas of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth is unable to pre-deploy sufficient resources because the size of the event leaves it with many unmet needs. The Commonwealth, and its neighboring states, cannot send resources to meet needs in one area when it is anticipated that the needs in the sending area may quickly escalate, requiring resources to be left available where they are.

I have designated Glenn M. Cannon, Esq., Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, as the Commonwealth Coordinating Officer for this request. He will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to complete damage assessments, and is authorized to provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Corbett", written over a horizontal line.

TOM CORBETT
Governor

Enclosure