



Janet T. Mills  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

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

**June 23, 2023**

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

Through: Ms. Lori Ehrlich  
Regional Administrator  
FEMA Region 1  
99 High Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

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 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I humbly request that you declare a Major Disaster for the Maine counties of Franklin, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Oxford, Sagadahoc, Somerset, and Waldo. All eight counties experienced substantial damages that have collectively exceeded the State's capabilities as a result of a severe storm and flooding event between the dates of April 30, 2023, and May 1, 2023. Specifically, I am requesting Public Assistance (PA) categories A through G, and Z for the indicated counties, as well as Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding for use statewide.

Details of my request are offered in the attached Request for Presidential Disaster Declaration (OMB Control No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13) and the extent of damages are further supported with supplemental information. Validated damages for the event can be found in Enclosure B: Supplemental Information for Public Assistance. Although Androscoggin County was not successful in meeting its respective damage indicator through the joint Preliminary Damage Assessment process, I request that all validated damages within Androscoggin be included in support of the State of Maine's damage threshold for this event. Meteorological factors and precursors for this flood and wind event have also been supplied and are described in detail in the attached National Weather Service Event Report.



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ENTITY	DAMAGE THRESHOLD	DAMAGES VALIDATED	THRESHOLD STATUS
Androscoggin	\$ 493,457	\$ 360,454	NOT MET
Franklin	\$ 130,785	\$ 318,932	VALIDATED
Kennebec	\$ 548,970	\$ 580,631	VALIDATED
Knox	\$ 180,295	\$ 264,695	VALIDATED
Lincoln	\$ 156,452	\$ 157,144	VALIDATED
Oxford	\$ 256,530	\$ 327,505	VALIDATED
Sagadahoc	\$ 162,944	\$ 314,670	VALIDATED
Somerset	\$ 224,118	\$ 320,961	VALIDATED
Waldo	\$ 175,855	\$ 333,449	VALIDATED
State of Maine	\$ 2,411,375	\$ 2,978,440	VALIDATED

Beginning on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, a broad area of low pressure across the Great Lakes region stalled out well to the west of the region and was accompanied by a secondary area of low pressure that developed and moved up the Eastern Seaboard and tracked across interior New England from Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, through Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. As a result of these two low pressure systems, heavy rainfall fell, and significant flooding occurred. The flooding was worsened by the timing of the rains with spring soils being high in moisture and most vegetation still dormant. These two factors lead to increased run-off and overwhelmed drainage infrastructure.

Rain started across southern and coastal areas early on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, with the heaviest rainfall Sunday night into early Monday morning. The rainfall on Sunday produced limited flooding but set the stage for what was to come by swelling rivers and filling ditches ahead of the heavier rain. The heavy rain started around 3 a.m. and continued through 10 a.m. Monday with rainfall rates between 1 to 1.5 inches an hour, resulting in widespread flash flooding. The rainfall ended by midday on Monday May 1<sup>st</sup> but the runoff that spilled into tributary and major rivers led to ongoing flooding for the next several days, with most rivers cresting late on Monday May 1<sup>st</sup> or on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Another characteristic of this system was a period of strong gusty winds Sunday night that started along the coastline and extended inland causing localized power outages and tree damage. Wind gusts of 50 mph were recorded at the Portland Jetport, and gusts to near 50 mph were also recorded inland. The strongest wind gusts (up to 65 mph) were reported across the Midcoast region. A total of 32,557 power outages were reported due to downed trees and snapped limbs; however, the bulk of the damages occurred as a result of floodwater.

The Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) transitioned from an enhanced monitoring status to a partial activation of the State Emergency Operations Center at 12 p.m. on May 1<sup>st</sup> to maintain situational awareness and field any resource requests from Maine's sixteen counties and Emergency Response Team partners. This event required substantial flood water monitoring, particularly across Maine's dam infrastructure as reports of erosion were obtained. County Emergency Management Agencies reported



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numerous persons requiring rescue assistance from flooded vehicles across the state, however, no deaths, injuries, or missing individuals were reported as a result of this event. A total of 141 road closures were captured by the State Emergency Operations Center as a result of flood water, road washouts, undermining, downed wires, or collapsed culverts. Numerous vehicular incidents did occur as a result of driving through flood waters and breaking through undermined pavement, however the exact number of incidents are not available for inclusion in this request. In total, the Maine Department of Transportation (DOT) dispatched 18 crews to respond to extensive road washouts and road closures, accumulating a total of 9,213 recovery hours. To help depict the scope of the event, the Maine DOT is simultaneously pursuing a disaster declaration through the Federal Highway Administration Emergency Relief Program for the \$2.5 million in damages sustained to Federal Highway roads across a total of 41 sites. State Emergency Operations Staff ultimately moved to a standby status as of 4 p.m. on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Disaster Recovery Team was activated immediately after the event to support damage data collection across all counties, resulting in nine counties exceeding their respective damage indicators in the Initial Public Assistance Damage Assessment (IDA) process. The State did not meet its indicator for Individual Assistance, and on-site assessments were therefore not requested for sustained individual and homeowner damages. On May 12<sup>th</sup>, Maine formally requested a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) for Public Assistance, as well as an extension for the disaster declaration request submission based on staffing and incident complexities associated balancing recent disaster declarations. Within the last 24 months, Maine has received a total of two disaster declarations (DR-4647 and DR-4696), with one disaster being declared just under six weeks prior to the April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup> severe storm and flooding event. On-site assessments for the severe storm and flood event were ultimately conducted across a total of nine counties between May 29<sup>th</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>, and a total of three virtual assessments occurred between the dates of May 26<sup>th</sup> and June 9<sup>th</sup>. The statewide PDA has validated \$2,978,440 in public infrastructure damages.

Validated public infrastructure and emergency protective measure damages from the event are currently broken down as follows; Category A (Debris Removal) was \$54,824 (1.84%); Category B (Protective Measures) was \$30,280 (1.02%); Category C (Roads and Bridges) was \$2,893,335 (97.14%); Category D (Water Control) was \$0 (0%); Category E (Buildings and Equipment) was \$0 (0%); Category F (Public Utilities) was \$0 (0%); and Category G (Parks and Other) \$0 (0%). Damages for this event were so substantial across Category C (Roads and Bridges) that Maine Emergency Management Agency opted to focus the Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment process on Category C damages to expedite the validation process and remove additional burden on the towns. Damages are expected to be significantly higher across Category A (Debris Removal) and Category B (Protective Measures), however the bulk of damages validated to date pertain to Category C (Roads and Bridges). Category D (Water Control) and Category E (Buildings and Equipment) have been requested as damages to water and wastewater infrastructure, structures housing water and wastewater infrastructure, and damages sustained to equipment have all been documented by our local partners. Category F (Public Utility) and Category G (Park and Other) are categories under which towns may further submit eligible damages should this event be declared.

It has been verified that all of the damaged infrastructure included in the validation process is not eligible for commercially available insurance coverage, and, therefore, all repair costs must be covered by local government taxpayers if Federal assistance is not obtained. Due to the widespread nature and extent of infrastructure damages, State resources are not adequate to meet local recovery needs. At this time, the State of Maine and eight counties have successfully met their respective per capita thresholds, so I once again, humbly, request that a Major Disaster be declared due to the April 30, 2023, and May 1, 2023, severe storm and flooding wind event for the counties of Franklin, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Oxford, Sagadahoc, Somerset, and Waldo.



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I have designated Peter Rogers, Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency, as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Thank you for your continuing support of the state of Maine and our citizens.

Sincerely,



Janet T. Mills  
Governor

Enclosures

OMB Control No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13

Enclosure B: Supplemental Information for Public Assistance

Additional Supporting Documentation: NWS Weather Event Report\_04.30.2023-05.01.2023



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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
**REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION**  
**MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY**

OMB Control Number 1660-0009  
Expires 06/30/2023

1. Request Date Jun 23, 2023

**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.  Maine	2b. Population (as reported by 2010 Census) or estimated population of Indian tribal government's damaged area(s). <u>1,362,359</u>
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3. Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Name Governor Janet T. Mills	4. Designation of State or Tribal Coordinating Officer upon declaration (if available) and phone number Peter Rogers (207) 441-7422
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5. Designation of Governor's Authorized Representative or Tribal Chief Executive Representative upon declaration (if available) and phone number  
Peter Rogers (207) 441-7422

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

7. Incident Period: Beginning Date April 30, 2023 End Date May 1, 2023 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

(rain, high water, wind-driven, rain, hail, lightning)     Snowstorm     (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.  
This event was significant with large swaths of river basins receiving 4+ inches of rain in a 12 to 24 hour period. Substantial, widespread public and private infrastructure damages occurred across the state as a result of widespread flash flooding. A total of 141 road closures occurred due to undermined roads, impassible roads due to elevated waters, washed out roads, blown out culverts, and downed wires. Power outages impacted a total of 32,557 customers, however the bulk of damages sustained resulted from substantial flood water damage to roads and bridges. One private dam activated their Emergency Action Plan due to flood caused erosion, and numerous other reports were received of enhanced dam monitoring due to high water. Numerous water and wastewater systems also experienced high waters during the event, with some facilities obtaining damages.

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.  
Maine's State Emergency Operations Center moved from enhanced monitoring to a partial activation at 1200 on 5/1/2023, maintaining a sustained partial activation posture through 1600 on the afternoon of 5/1/2023. Staff at the State Emergency Operations Center were positioned to maintain situational awareness and field any resource requests from Maine's sixteen counties and Emergency Response Team partners.



10. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment\*

Individual Assistance    Dates Performed    Requested \_\_\_\_\_    Start \_\_\_\_\_    End \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)  
 The state did retain damage assessments for individuals and households in partnership with 211 Maine, however Maine did not meet its threshold for requesting Individual Assistance. Initial Damage Assessment submissions included four minor damages, four major damages, three affected, eighteen inaccessible, one unknown, and two destroyed. The State, therefore, did not request an Individual Assistance Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment.

Public Assistance    Dates Performed    Requested May 12, 2023    Start May 26, 2023    End Jun 9, 2023

Public Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)  
 Three Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) teams were deployed to Maine to assist state, county, and local partners in the joint PDA process across nine counties. No teams reported issues accessing damage sites.

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).  
 No programs or assistance areas are being requested for this event.

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes in the requested counties (if applicable).  
 Passamaquoddy Tribe (Somerset County)

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.

Categories A-G and Z are requested for Franklin, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Oxford, Sagadahoc, Somerset, and Waldo counties.

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes included in the requested counties (if applicable).  
Passamaquoddy Tribe (Somerset County)

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:

b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services.

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 21, 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\*.

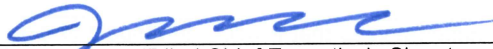
14. Findings and Certifications

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 5/1/2023 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 NWS Weather Event Report\_04.30.2023-05.01.2023

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Signature

6/26/23  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 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