



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Andy Beshear  
GOVERNOR

Capitol Building, Suite 100  
700 Capitol Avenue  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 564-2611  
Fax: (502) 564-2517

July 28, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D. C. 20502-0001

Through: Gracia B. Szczech  
Regional Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IV  
3005 Chamblee Tucker Road  
Atlanta, GA 30341

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), as implemented by 44 C. F. R. § 206.36, I request that you expedite a major disaster declaration for the Commonwealth of Kentucky in response to a severe weather system that has produced multiple rounds of heavy torrential rain, creating flooding, flash flooding, mudslides, and landslides. This event began on July 26, 2022, and is continuing.

The system has impacted a significant portion of the Commonwealth. Currently, the Kentucky Department for Public Health has confirmed three (3) fatalities: one (1) in Perry County and two (2) in Knott County. Unconfirmed reports indicated the probability of many more fatalities. There are many reports of injuries but confirmations have not been obtained at this time.

The following counties most impacted at this time include: Breathitt, Clay, Floyd, Johnson, Knott, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, Owsley, Perry, Pike, and Wolfe. Heavy rain continues and more counties will be receiving significant damages. Multiple Mesonet stations report rain between six (6) and 10 inches. Hundreds of homes and businesses are flooded. Many schools are reported to be submerged and the preliminary reports identify significant damages to roads and bridges. Power outages are widespread. Reporting indicates the North Fork of the Kentucky River is currently six (6) feet above its historic high.

In response to this event, I have declared a State of Emergency in Executive Order 2022-457, effective July 28, 2022. This order activated the State Emergency Operations Center and the State Emergency Operations Plan. The Order also directed the Kentucky National Guard to provide support and assistance to impacted communities. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is sending heavy equipment and operators to assist with the clearing of emergency routes. The Kentucky Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters is coordinating efforts and stands ready to assist when the waters subside.

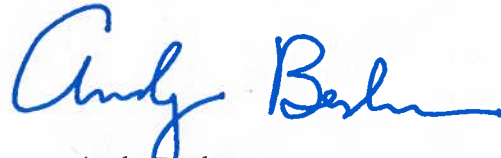
Kentucky is in need of Federal assistance to respond to this event. The most pressing need is for swift water rescue teams. Moving forward, there will be a need for pumps and assistance conducting critical infrastructure assessments. The Commonwealth has requested the assistance of FEMA Incident Management Assistance Teams to aid the Commonwealth with command-and-control operations.

The debris generated by the flood waters will be massive. Restoring roadways and bridges will be an enormous and long-term undertaking. At this time, there are at least five (5) water distribution systems not functioning. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is delivering water into those communities.

Due to the severity of this devastating event, I am requesting an expedited Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance, Categories A – G, including direct Federal assistance, and Individual Assistance for the impacted counties, including Breathitt, Clay, Floyd, Johnson, Knott, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, Owsley, Perry, Pike, and Wolfe.

I thank you for your consideration of this request and look forward to working with our Federal partners to assist our impacted Kentucky communities and citizens. I also request Hazard Mitigation for the entire state.

Sincerely,



Andy Beshear  
Governor