



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

September 20, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Through: Mr. Tony Russell, Regional Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
FEMA Region VI
Federal Regional Center
Denton, Texas 76209

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 request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Texas as a result of Tropical Storm Hermine, which affected the state September 6–10, 2010, causing a disaster along the central portion of Texas in the counties of Bell, Blanco, Cameron, Coryell, Denton, Hill, Jim Wells, Johnson, Medina, Tarrant, Travis, Willacy and Williamson.

Eight Texans tragically lost their lives across the state as a result of the tremendous flooding from this storm: one in Galveston County, one in Bell County, one in Johnson County, two in Comal County, one in Bexar County, one in Travis County and one in Williamson County.

A low pressure system formed in the extreme southwestern Gulf of Mexico, becoming Tropical Depression No. 10 on September 5 and being named Tropical Storm Hermine by the National Hurricane Center on September 6. A hurricane watch was issued from Rio San Fernando, Mexico, northward to Baffin Bay, Texas. A tropical storm warning was issued for La Cruz, Mexico, northward to Port O'Connor, Texas.

Tropical Storm Hermine made landfall the evening of September 6 near the northeast coast of Mexico and moved across South Texas. Rainfall rates of one to two inches per hour were observed with locally heavier rates of three to four inches. At least 40 Texas counties were placed under a flood warning by the National Weather Service. Additionally, tornado warnings were issued in 27 counties as the remnants of Tropical Storm Hermine moved across the state. Tropical Storm Hermine came at a bad time for a region still drying out from Hurricane Alex and another tropical system in July and August.

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Significant rainfall totals from various points around the state include: 15.62 inches at Georgetown, 11.26 inches at Fort Hood, 12–14 inches across Hill County, 7.02 inches in Southeast Denton County, 6.02 inches at Justin and 5.24 inches at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. The sudden flooding in Texas on Wednesday led to more than 100 high-water rescues.

On September 8, a confirmed tornado touched down in the City of Dallas near Love Field airport, causing damage to several businesses. Severe wind storms caused damage to numerous homes in Seagoville, Rockwall and other nearby cities.

More than 1,200 people in the town of Holland, about 45 miles northeast of Austin, were without water because of storm damage.

In response to this situation, I have taken appropriate action under state law, directing the execution of the State Emergency Plan on September 6, 2010, in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act. I issued a state disaster proclamation on September 9, 2010, and have renewed that proclamation on September 20, 2010.

The state's currently approved Hazard Mitigation Plan (basic level) is set to expire October 24, 2010. The state is currently working with FEMA in order to renew the approval of the plan.

On September 13, I requested a joint federal, state and local survey of the damaged areas. Preliminary assessments are currently ongoing. Results of these assessments will be forthcoming once they are complete. Preliminary reports from local jurisdictions indicate the most significant effects have been to the public and private sectors in the form of distress to local utilities and water/wastewater systems, and to local jurisdictions in the form of damage to infrastructure and costs incurred in sheltering and housing losses.

Critical utilities were affected tremendously in many portions of the state. In some cases, citizens will have to wait weeks to have electrical utilities reconnected. Four utility companies (Brownsville Public Utilities Board, American Electric Power, Nueces Electric Cooperative and Oncor Electric) have reported that at one time 48,966 customers were without power. The City of Cedar Park's Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Brazos River Authority's Brushy Creek Treatment Plant, the City of Georgetown's Pecan Branch Treatment Plant and the San Gabriel Treatment Plant all incurred flooding in many portions of the facilities due to flash flooding and high winds.

Due to the flash flooding, counties and cities are reporting damage to roads and bridges. At a minimum, three bridges and numerous roads have been majorly affected and are inaccessible at this time.

Jurisdictions are reporting a minimum of 178 homes are destroyed and 298 homes have major damage.

I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that an effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and the affected local governments, and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary. I am specifically requesting:

- Individual Assistance including Individuals and Households Program (IHP), Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Crisis Counseling and Small Business Administration Disaster Loans;
- Public Assistance (all categories) and
- Hazard Mitigation statewide.

I am specifically requesting Individual Assistance for the Counties of Bell, Cameron, Denton, Hill, Jim Wells, Johnson, Tarrant, Travis, Willacy and Williamson. Preliminary Damage Assessments are ongoing and additional counties may be submitted.

I am specifically requesting Public Assistance for the Counties of Bell, Blanco, Cameron, Coryell, Denton, Hill, Jim Wells, Johnson, Medina, Tarrant, Travis, Willacy and Williamson. Preliminary Damage Assessments are ongoing and additional counties may be submitted.

Preliminary estimates of the types and amount of assistance needed under the Stafford Act are tabulated in Enclosures A and B. Estimated requirements for assistance for certain federal agencies under other statutory authorities are tabulated in Enclosure C. Please keep in mind that some requested counties may not have supporting assessment data, as state damage assessments may not have been completed for those counties.

The following information is furnished on the nature and amount of state and local resources that have been or will be used to alleviate the conditions of this disaster:

American Red Cross (ARC): The American Red Cross stood up operations in the Rio Grande Valley to support response for Tropical Storm Hermine. ARC called up staff and placed two shelters (La Joya High School and La Joya and Memorial Middle School in Mission) on standby. Eight Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) remain on standby until a request for assistance is received or until the rain and winds abate. Six shelter supply trailers were staged in Edinburg. Disaster Relief Operations were established in Corpus Christi, with a satellite location in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. ARC Regional Chapters responding to Tropical Storm Hermine included San Antonio, Austin, Waco, Dallas, Fort Worth and Tyler. As the storm moved through Texas, 10 shelters were opened and sheltered evacuees.

ARC completed the Preliminary Damage Assessments for the areas of the state affected by Tropical Storm Hermine. ARC continues to do bulk distribution, client casework, community outreach and meetings with community leaders.

Thus far, ARC has provided the following response efforts:

Shelters opened:	6
Shelter registrations:	227
Meals served:	1,454
Snacks served:	7,731
Cleanup kits distributed:	190
Comfort kits distributed:	101
Bulk items distributed:	14
Clients served in cases:	483
Outreach contacts:	166
Health service contacts:	101
Mental health contacts:	38

Baptist Child and Family Services (BCFS): At the request of Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), BCFS placed resources and assets on standby for deployment to support a medical sheltering operation. BCFS was prepared to support a 200-bed medical shelter, complete with generator backup for HVAC and lighting. Additionally, BCFS placed a 12-person Incident Management Team (IMT); mobile command platform; communications support vehicle and trailer; 24-foot box truck; and three, three-quarter ton trucks on standby to support the operation.

Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC): HHSC stood by to assist as needed. HHSC is assisting Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) with two PDA teams with damage assessments.

2-1-1 Texas: 2-1-1 received a few calls from the Lower Rio Grande Valley for storm-related information and referral. 2-1-1 monitored information and referral resources in anticipation of potential higher call volume as the storm moved through Texas.

International Federation of Chaplains (IFC): Chaplains were on standby.

Mass Care: State Coordination Operations: The team monitored conference calls with McAllen Disaster District Committee (DDC) and local jurisdictions. The Mass Care team also monitored National Weather Service Brownsville conference calls with local jurisdictions. The state held Mass Care coordination calls and continues to monitor local calls. The team provided situational awareness and status reports to the State Operations Center (SOC), Disaster District Committee (DDC) and Regional Liaison Officer (RLO). The team was on standby response to SOC.

Texas AgriLife Extension Service (ALEXT): As of Friday, September 10, the agency demobilized 38 county extension agents and two extension specialists, who supported TDEM with public education and information on flood mitigation and recovery. AgriLife Communications and its news network have reverted to their non-emergency status.

Texas Department of Insurance (TDI): On Friday, September 10, TDI issued a press release providing consumers with key information regarding insurance coverage and claims in connection with the effects of Tropical Storm Hermine.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ): TCEQ response staff monitored the situation and were on standby to assist if needed in the areas of debris management, assessment of drinking water and wastewater facilities, dams, and hazardous materials disposition.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT): TxDOT monitored roads statewide for flood conditions. TxDOT conducted damage assessments in Deep South Texas and Cameron County, and crews removed debris and opened roadways. Power lines were on the road at various locations in Willacy County and BUS 77 was closed. Water was over the road in a number of areas. TxDOT reported the status of road conditions online at <http://www.txdot.gov> and by phone at (800) 452-9292.

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS): DPS Highway Patrol troopers assisted with traffic in affected areas. TDEM RLOs were deployed to DDC McAllen to assist local jurisdictions with resource requests.

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS): DSHS continues to monitor the situation. DSHS is in contact with the local health departments and with the state hospitals for any needs.

Texas Engineering Extension (TEEX): Six Texas Task Force 1 (TTF1) Water Rescue Strike Teams were on standby to support rescue operations in affected areas. Two Swift Water Rescue Teams responded in Williamson County to support water rescue operations and two Swift Water Rescue Teams were staged at Whitney High School in Hill County to support water rescue operations. TEEX positioned one high-profile vehicle package, consisting of 30 personnel, and 10 vehicles, of which five vehicles were staged at the fire department in Copperas Cove at 415 South Main Street, while the other five vehicles were staged at the DPS Waco District Office.

Texas General Land Office (GLO): The GLO Oil Spill Prevention and Response Division advised that there have been numerous reports of sunken vessels in coastal waters off of Cameron County, including three fishing vessels stranded on or near South Padre Island. Local field office personnel were conducting assessments. Personnel on a U.S. Coast Guard overflight out of Air Station Corpus Christi conducted an assessment.

Texas Military Forces (TXMF): Ten Texas Military Forces (TXMF) high-profile vehicles (HPVs) with crews, one UH60 helicopter and one CH47 helicopter were on standby prepared to respond if requested, in support of flood response operations and any potential heavy lift sandbag operations in areas affected by Tropical Storm Hermine. TXMF tracked Tropical Storm Hermine and issued warning orders to forces.

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Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD): One boat with one operator was sent to support swift water rescue operations in Williamson County. All other boats and terrain vehicles were on standby.

Public Works Response Team (PWRT): The Public Works Response Team monitored the storm.

The Salvation Army (TSA): Seven mobile feeding units were on standby for response. Volunteers were notified.

Southern Baptists of Texas Convention (SBTC): Clean-out team members and field kitchens were on standby.

Texas Baptist Men (TBM): Clean-out team members, field kitchens and Child Care Units were placed on standby. A total of 64 families were provided with 2,900 boxes of personal items. Additionally, the following additional services were provided:

Hours of cleaning personal items:	16
Laundry loads washed for citizens:	216
Showers provided for citizens:	113
Meals provided:	870
Homes cleaned and sanitized:	4

Victim Relief Ministries (VRM): Chaplains were on standby. The DSHS Regional Offices monitored the shelters that were open for evacuees and provided assistance upon request.

The VRM conducted 38 mud-outs in 115 of the Willow Valley Condos affected in Arlington.

Disaster Assistance Center (DAC): The state, along with many Volunteers Active in Disasters (VOAD) helped support a Disaster Assistance Center (DAC) for the City of Nolanville in Bell County on September 18. A total of 14 state, local and volunteer agencies participated in the DAC. Below are the results of the DAC.

Total number of families assisted:	38
Total number of people assisted:	128
Total number of volunteers:	80

I certify that for this major disaster, the state and local governments will assume all applicable non-federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act. Total expenditures are expected to exceed \$2,931,304 in accordance with the table in Enclosure D.

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I request Direct Federal Assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property due to the commitment of the full resources of local governments and of the State of Texas to the incident. The state has not determined to what extent DFA will be needed.

In accordance with 44 CFR § 206.208, the State of Texas agrees that it will, with respect to DFA:

1. Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements and rights-of-way 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.

In addition, 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 and 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 Ben Patterson as the state coordinating officer for this request. He will work with FEMA in damage assessments and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "RICK PERRY". The letters are in a cursive, slightly slanted font.

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:bpp

Enclosures

ENCLOSURE A TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Requirements for Individual Assistance
under the Stafford Act

County (List each requested county)	Assistance to Individuals and Households						Other Programs (Disaster Assistance, Legal Services, and Crisis Counseling)
	Temporary Housing <i>(Indicate No.)</i>	Repairs	Replacement	Permanent Housing Construction	Other Needs Assistance		
Bell	(204) \$150,829	(21) \$269,080	(6) \$145,720	---	(113) \$142,464	*	
Cameron	(0) \$0	(0) \$0	(0) \$0	---	(0) \$0	*	
Denton	(7) \$6,258	(8) \$207,002	(0) \$0	---	(5) \$5,088	*	
Hill	(6) \$3,528	(11) \$56,090	(1) \$29,144	---	(8) \$8,904	*	
Jim Wells	(1) \$588	(2) \$32,138	(0) \$0	---	(1) \$1,272	*	
Johnson	(4) \$3,444	(11) \$108,390	(0) \$0	---	(6) \$7,632	*	
Medina	(4) \$2,046	(12) \$32,934	(0) \$0	---	(8) \$10,176	*	
Tarrant	(120) \$102,459	(144) \$2,601,586	(4) \$116,576	---	(95) \$119,568	*	
Travis	(0) \$0	(0) \$0	(0) \$0	---	(0) \$0	*	
Willacy	(6) \$3,528	(4) \$38,126	(1) \$29,144	---	(5) \$5,088	*	
Williamson	(0) \$0	(0) \$0	(0) \$0	---	(0) \$0	*	
TOTALS	(352) \$272,680	(213) \$3,345,346	(12) \$320,584		(241) \$300,192		

* = unavailable at this time.

ENCLOSURE B TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Requirements for Public Assistance
Stafford Act

CATEGORY

County	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Bell	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Blanco	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Cameron	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Coryell	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Denton	\$0	\$124,200	\$853,305	\$0	\$ 3,200	\$138,000	\$22,000	\$1,140,705
Hill	\$0	\$0	\$669,600	\$0	\$78,091	\$0	\$0	\$747,691
Jim Wells	\$94,956	\$1,746	\$0	\$0	\$11,350	\$0	\$0	\$108,052
Johnson	\$1,560	\$0	\$933,296	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$934,856
Medina	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Tarrant	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travis	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Willacy	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Williamson	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Totals:	\$96,516	\$125,946	\$2,456,201	\$0	\$92,641	\$138,000	\$22,000	\$2,931,304

Note: Estimates are to reflect total eligible costs before any cost sharing.

ENCLOSURE C TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs

County	SBA Home Loans	SBA Business Loans	FSA Loans	NRC S	FHWA	USAC E	OTHER
Bell	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Cameron	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Denton	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Hill	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Jim Wells	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Johnson	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Medina	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Tarrant	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Travis	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Willacy	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Williamson	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Totals:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Note: Provide numbers and amounts, as appropriate.

* = unavailable at this time

ENCLOSURE D 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:		
"Other Assistance" under the Individuals and Households Program	\$75,366	\$0
Other (specify)		
Total:	\$75,366	\$0
Public Assistance:		
Category A - Debris Removal	\$0	\$96,516
Category B -- Emergency Protective Measures	\$0	\$125,946
Category C -- Roads and Bridges	\$0	\$2,456,201
Category D -- Water Control Facilities	\$0	\$0
Category E -- Buildings and Equipment	\$0	\$92,641
Category F -- Utilities	\$0	\$138,000
Category G -- Other (Parks, Recreational Facilities, etc.)	\$0	\$22,000
Total:	\$75,366	\$2,931,304
Grand Total:	\$75,366	\$2,931,304

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
Governor of the State of Texas

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

I, RICK PERRY, Governor of Texas, issued an Emergency Disaster Proclamation on September 9, 2010, as Tropical Storm Hermine posed a threat of imminent disaster to the state's southernmost counties, the central Texas corridor and portions of North Texas;

WHEREAS, Tropical Storm Hermine's flash flooding events caused substantial destruction in the counties listed below;

WHEREAS, the effects of Tropical Storm Hermine continue to create a state of disaster for people in the State of Texas;

WHEREAS, the state of disaster includes the counties of Bell, Blanco, Cameron, Coryell, Denton, Hill, Jim Wells, Johnson, Medina, Tarrant, Travis, Willacy and Williamson;

THEREFORE, in accordance with the authority vested in me by Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code, I do hereby renew the disaster proclamation to include the counties listed above and direct that all necessary measures; both public and private, as authorized under Section 418.017 of the code be implemented to meet that disaster.

As provided in Section 418.016 of the code, all rules and regulations that may inhibit or prevent prompt response to this threat are suspended for the duration of the incident.

The renewal of the disaster proclamation becomes effective immediately and shall remain in effect for 30 days, unless renewed or terminated. In accordance with the statutory requirements, copies of this proclamation shall be filed with the applicable authorities.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and have officially caused the Seal of State to be affixed at my Office in the City of Austin, Texas, this the 20th day of September, 2010.

RICK PERRY
RICK PERRY
Governor

Attested by:

Esperanza Andrade
ESPERANZA "HOPE" ANDRADE
Secretary of State

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
O'CLOCK

SEP 20 2010