

PHILIP B. SCOTT  
GOVERNOR



State of Vermont  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY DECLARATION  
GOVERNOR'S REQUEST COVER LETTER**

August 8, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Through: Ms. Lori Ehrlich  
Regional Administrator  
FEMA Region I  
220 Binney Street  
Cambridge, MA 02142

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 501 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR §206.35, I request that you declare an emergency for the State of Vermont as a result of anticipated impacts from *Tropical Depression Debby*. Based on recent National Weather Service forecasts the *Tropical Depression Debby* will be impacting the state on Friday August 9, 2024 and Saturday August 10, 2024. Anticipated impacts include flash flooding across much of the Vermont.

I declared a State of Emergency for the entire state of Vermont on Wednesday, July 10, 2023 that remains in effect "*STATE OF VERMONT EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT AMENDED AND RESTATED EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 03-23 [Declaration of State of Emergency, Guard Call-Out and Activation of Emergency Operations Plan for the State of Vermont in Response to Anticipated Storm-Related Damage] – dated July 10, 2024.*" I am issuing an Addendum to that Declaration of State Emergency, concurrent with the execution of this request, to encompass the anticipated impacts of *Tropical Depression Debby*.

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Specifically, I am requesting Public Assistance Category B (Emergency Protective Measures) statewide, limited to Direct Federal Assistance and reimbursement for mass care, including evacuation and sheltering support, that are beyond the capability of the State and affected local governments. This request is in anticipation of response, rescue, and recovery efforts that may be necessary to save lives and protect public health and safety.

Vermont has been extremely hard hit by flooding throughout the month of July, with severe storms, flooding, and landslides July 9-11, 2024 resulting in joint FEMA/Vermont preliminary damage assessments for Individual Assistance (IA) and Public Assistance (PA). A Major Disaster Declaration request was submitted to FEMA as a result of those PDAs. Additionally, PDAs are currently ongoing for three counties for IA and PA as a result of repeated flooding from July 29-31, 2024. Any additional significant rainfall is likely to result in additional widespread flooding due to the threat of flash flooding and our previously impacted and damaged infrastructure.

The State of Vermont Emergency Operations Center was first activated on July 10 and remains active to address the significant impacts and provide assistance to local governments and residents as they continue to respond and recover from July's storms. Coordination calls continue with local and regional officials to maintain situational awareness on ongoing recovery efforts. State agencies and departments responding to storm impacts include the Agencies of Human Services, and Transportation and the Departments of Buildings and General Services, Environmental Conservation, Financial Regulation, Vermont National Guard, and Department of Public Safety Divisions of Fire Safety and Emergency Management, and Vermont Task Force 1 Urban Search and Rescue Team. Vermont will be mobilizing and staging 6 local Type III search and rescue teams. Additionally, Vermont Search and Rescue will be mobilizing and staging 1 Type IV team. The State has requested, via the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), 3 Type III search and rescue teams from other states to support Vermont.

The July 2024 Severe Storms follow several previous events that have continued to significantly tax the State's overall response and recovery capacity. Last year's July 2023 Vermont flooding (DR4720) is one of the most catastrophic natural disasters in State history, projected to climb to over \$550 million in eligible costs, and recovery operations have been significantly hampered by repetitive losses between last July and this July. Following DR4720 Vermont has had three declared disasters for severe storms and flooding and winter storms (DR4744, DR4762 and DR4770). The COVID-19 Major Disaster (DR4352) is Vermont's second largest disaster in history with approximately \$520 million in potentially eligible costs and climbing. Additionally, and as mentioned above, southern Vermont sustained \$4.5 million in potentially eligible costs from the flooding disaster of July 29-30, 2021. Since 2013, Vermont has experienced 12 federally declared and numerous non-declared disasters: DR4120 (May 2013 flooding), DR4140 (June-July 2013 flooding), DR4163 (December 2013 ice storm), DR4178 (April 2014 flooding), DR4207 (December 2014 severe winter storm), DR4232 (June 9, 2015 flooding), DR4330 (June-July 2017 flooding), DR4356 (October 29-30, 2018 severe storm and flooding), DR4380 (May 4-5, 2018 severe storm), DR4445 (April 15, 2019 severe storm and flooding), DR4474 (Severe storm and flooding, 10/31/19 - 11/01/19) and DR4352 (COVID-19).

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Emergency protective measures may be required to support the state and local response, rescue, and recovery efforts necessary to save lives, and to protect property, public health and safety. Assistance may be needed to support emergency power generation, hazardous materials response, debris clearance, mass care and sheltering, commodities and commodity distribution, evacuation, search and rescue, emergency communication, and technical and advisory consultation. The threat posed by *Tropical Depression Debby* requires that timely precautions are taken to protect the communities, critical infrastructure and the general welfare of Vermont.

I have designated Eric Forand, Director of Vermont Emergency Management, as the State Coordinating Officer for this emergency. He is authorized to provide further information, assurances, or justification on my behalf and to designate additional Deputy State Coordinating Officer(s) as necessary.

As always, thank you for your support for Vermont.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip B. Scott", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Philip B. Scott  
Governor

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