



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Tim Walz

75 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. ♦ Suite 130 ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155-1611

July 2, 2020

The Honorable Donald Trump  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest  
Washington, DC 20500

Through:

James K. Joseph, Regional Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region V  
536 South Clark Street, Floor 6  
Chicago, IL 60605

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 CFR § 206.36, I request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Minnesota because of extensive fire damage to public infrastructure caused by civil unrest.

The death of Mr. George Floyd on May 25 sparked numerous peaceful protests across Minnesota. Beginning on May 27, individuals bent on destruction infiltrated otherwise peaceful protests and began to incite violence and vandalism, especially within our two largest cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul. Initial damage estimates for this incident were well over \$100,000,000. While many areas suffered damage, Minneapolis bore the brunt of the destruction. Deliberately set fires were used to wantonly destroy local businesses, public buildings, and other property.

Nearly 1,500 businesses in the Twin Cities were damaged by vandalism, fire, or looting. The heaviest damage occurred along major corridors of commerce and public accommodation, including Lake Street in Minneapolis and in the Midway Area of Saint Paul. These corridors provide lifeline services like food, pharmaceuticals, health care, housing, and transportation to thousands of Minnesotans. Refined estimates of property damage are now upwards of \$500,000,000, making this the second most destructive incident of civil unrest in United States history after the 1992 Los Angeles riots. The social and economic impacts of this incident will be felt for years, if not decades.

The resources of local, tribal, county, and state governments were already stretched thin due to our ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, all levels of government

surged available resources for immediate response to preserve life and safety and to protect property and infrastructure from additional damage.

The Minnesota emergency operations plan and our state emergency operations center were already fully activated to support the COVID-19 response, so we were able to quickly pivot to address the civil unrest while simultaneously maintaining our pandemic operations.

In response to the civil unrest, I ordered the full activation of the Minnesota National Guard for the first time since the beginning of World War II. The Minnesota State Patrol called in every available trooper to respond to the incident. These forces were joined by law enforcement officers from state agencies, county sheriff offices, police departments from across the state, and state troopers from Wisconsin. In the end, over 10,000 law enforcement officers, soldiers, airmen, firefighters, and emergency medical services professionals contributed to the effort to restore peace and safety to our streets.

In the aftermath of these unprecedented events, federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies are working cooperatively on criminal investigations. Federal charges have been filed against 10 people for rioting or arson during the unrest.

The Minnesota Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management conducted a virtual preliminary damage assessment (PDA) jointly with staff from FEMA Region V during the week of June 23 and 26. This survey quantified the extent of debris removal, emergency protective measures, and damage to public buildings and equipment. The PDA verified \$15,658,865 of eligible damages directly related to the fires. That is nearly two times our statewide damage indicator of \$8,115,005. The PDA catalogued eligible damages in Public Assistance (PA) categories A, B, C and E.

Minnesota needs federal assistance to recover from these fire-related damages. We are still working on nine previous Stafford Act disasters. Minnesota is currently fully engaged with the coronavirus pandemic response and recovery under FEMA-4531-DR. Minnesota's two other most recent disasters, FEMA-4414-DR for storm surge flooding and damaging waves and FEMA-4442-DR for severe spring weather and flooding were declared within the last 18 months. We deeply appreciate the federal assistance you authorized to help four tribal nations and 52 counties recover from \$92,000,000 of damage caused by those two incidents, as well as the coronavirus relief. Minnesota also has a state-funded program that provides public disaster assistance when federal aid is unavailable. We are currently recovering from 15 open state disasters that will draw around \$23,000,000 from our state disaster account to help an additional 66 counties and two tribal governments.

The challenge of recovering from these fires, concurrent with the numerous natural disasters, is made even more difficult by the negative economic conditions triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic. In February, Minnesota had a projected state budget revenue surplus of \$1.5 billion. We now face a \$2.4 billion projected revenue deficit, a negative swing of nearly \$4 billion.

Disaster assistance under the Stafford Act is clearly warranted. Without it, and given the already heavy burden of so many previous state and federal disasters and the COVID-19 response, Minnesotans will struggle to return their communities to normalcy.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. J. Walz", written in a cursive style.

Tim Walz  
Governor

cc: Commissioner John Harrington, Minnesota Department of Public Safety  
Director Joe Kelly, Minnesota Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

Attached: FEMA Form 010-0-13, with Enclosure B – Public Assistance



10. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment\*

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

Individual Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)  
Not performed

Public Assistance    Dates Performed    Requested Jun 5, 2020    Start Jun 22, 2020    End Jun 26, 2020

Public Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)

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).

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes in the requested counties (if applicable).  
None

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.

Hennepin County

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

N/A

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 March 19, 2024

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 May 27, 2020 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 \_\_\_\_\_



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

7/2/2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
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



**FEMA**

**TABLE A-1 SUMMARY OF ELIGIBLE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE  
PDA CONDUCTED 6/22/20-6/26/20**

**STATE: *Minnesota* POPULATION: *5,303,925***

| <b>Applicant</b>           | <b>A</b>         | <b>B</b>         | <b>C</b>         | <b>D</b>   | <b>E</b>            | <b>F</b>   | <b>G</b>   | <b>TOTAL</b>        | <b>Population</b> | <b>Per/Cap Loss</b> |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| County of Hennepin         | \$947,316        | \$101,449        | \$472,150        | \$0        | \$14,137,950        | \$0        | \$0        | \$15,658,865        | 1,152,425         | \$13.59             |
| County of county B name    | \$0              | \$0              | \$0              | \$0        | \$0                 | \$0        | \$0        | \$0                 | B co. pop         | #VALUE!             |
| County of county C name    | \$0              | \$0              | \$0              | \$0        | \$0                 | \$0        | \$0        | \$0                 | C co. pop         | #VALUE!             |
| County of county D name    | \$0              | \$0              | \$0              | \$0        | \$0                 | \$0        | \$0        | \$0                 | D co. pop         | #VALUE!             |
| County of county E name    | \$0              | \$0              | \$0              | \$0        | \$0                 | \$0        | \$0        | \$0                 | E co. pop         | #VALUE!             |
| County of county F name    | \$0              | \$0              | \$0              | \$0        | \$0                 | \$0        | \$0        | \$0                 | F co. pop         | #VALUE!             |
| County of county G name    | \$0              | \$0              | \$0              | \$0        | \$0                 | \$0        | \$0        | \$0                 | G co. pop         | #VALUE!             |
| County of county H name    | \$0              | \$0              | \$0              | \$0        | \$0                 | \$0        | \$0        | \$0                 | H co. pop         | #VALUE!             |
| County of county I name    | \$0              | \$0              | \$0              | \$0        | \$0                 | \$0        | \$0        | \$0                 | I co. pop         | #VALUE!             |
| County of county J name    | \$0              | \$0              | \$0              | \$0        | \$0                 | \$0        | \$0        | \$0                 | J co. pop         | #VALUE!             |
| County of county K name    | \$0              | \$0              | \$0              | \$0        | \$0                 | \$0        | \$0        | \$0                 | K co. pop         | #VALUE!             |
| State Agencies             | \$0              | \$0              | \$0              | \$0        | \$0                 | \$0        | \$0        | \$0                 |                   |                     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>               | <b>\$947,316</b> | <b>\$101,449</b> | <b>\$472,150</b> | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$14,137,950</b> | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$0</b> | <b>\$15,658,865</b> | <b>5,303,925</b>  | <b>2.952316445</b>  |
| <b>category percentage</b> | <b>A</b>         | <b>B</b>         | <b>C</b>         | <b>D</b>   | <b>E</b>            | <b>F</b>   | <b>G</b>   |                     |                   |                     |
|                            | 6.05%            | 0.65%            | 3.02%            | 0.00%      | 90.29%              | 0.00%      | 0.00%      | federal share (75%) |                   |                     |