RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

November 9, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Through: Robert P. Ashe, Regional Administrator
FEMA Region IV
Federal Emergency Management Agency
3005 Chamblee–Tucker Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30341

RE: Request for Expedited Major Disaster Declaration
2026 Fall Flooding

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 (the "Stafford Act"), as implemented by 44 C.F.R. § 206.36, I request that you issue a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Florida as a result of flooding in the Florida peninsula and authorize and make available all programs under Individual Assistance, Public Assistance Category A (debris removal), Public Assistance Category B (emergency protective measures), Direct Federal Assistance (DFA), and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). This request is timely under 44 C.F.R. § 206.36(a).

Based on the significant damages to date and the continuous riverine flooding, I request a Major Disaster Declaration for Brevard, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie counties in the State of Florida. The severity of the impact of this disaster extends well beyond the capability of the State of Florida and affected tribal and/or local governments in Florida. I request the incident period for this disaster begin on October 31, 2026. Furthermore, the catastrophic impacts received from this event continue to increase and I request to forego formal field damage assessments, as outlined under 44 C.F.R. § 206.36(d).

I. Current Situation and Forecasted Meteorological Impacts

A historic and catastrophic flash flooding event impacted portions of the Florida Panhandle, Central Florida, and Southern Florida beginning in the early morning hours of November 1, and continuing through the morning hours of November 3.

The origins of this significant flash flooding threat can be partially traced back to the East Pacific, associated with the remnants of Hurricane Vance. By the early morning hours of October 29, Vance was a rapidly weakening tropical system tracking towards the northwestern Mexican

Coast in the Eastern Pacific. Moisture associated with Vance's remnant low quickly surged northeastward during the afternoon hours of October 29, eventually turning eastward over the Deep South on October 30 enroute to the state of Florida. As this occurred, a strong area of high pressure developed over the Northeastern United States. Surface flow on the Southern periphery of this high pressure led to a region of strong easterly onshore winds across Florida's East Coast. Finally, a broad area of upper-level low-pressure, also associated with the remnants of Hurricane Vance, began to develop over the Florida Peninsula starting late on November 1. The combination of these three features would lead to a multi-day, catastrophic rainfall and flash flooding event in multiple locations across Florida.

The first instances of flash flooding occurred in the morning hours of November 1 within isolated areas of the Florida Panhandle. A swath of moderate-to-heavy rainfall was beginning to develop across the Central Panhandle by 0600UTC on November 1. Thunderstorms embedded within this anomalously moist airmass were highly efficient rainmakers, capable of producing rainfall rates in excess of 2-3"/hr (Fig. 1).

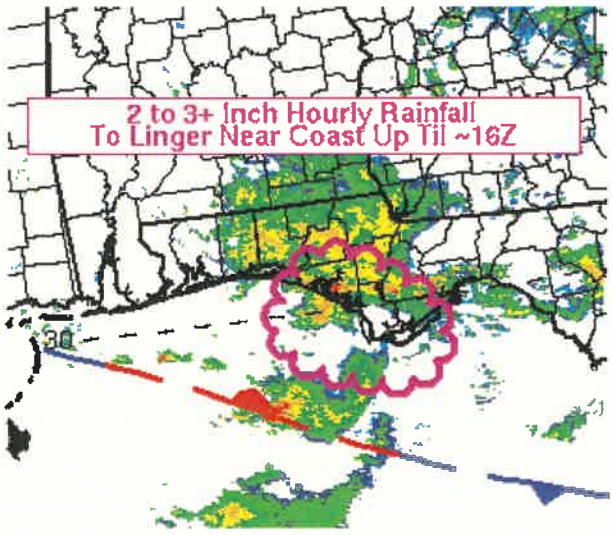


Fig.1: Weather Prediction Center (WPC) Mesoscale Precipitation Discussion (MPD), valid 11/01 1350UTC.

The event's first flash flood warning was issued at 1153UTC on November 1 over portions of Bay County, where doppler radar was estimating as much as 2-4" of rain had already fallen. Storm complexes continued to move slowly and redevelop over Bay County, producing multiple consecutive hours of very heavy rainfall rates. At 1415 UTC, the flash flood warning over Bay County was upgraded by the National Weather Service in Tallahassee to include a Considerable flash flood damage tag, prompted by a spike in local storm reports and radar-estimated rainfall accumulations exceeding 5-8" of rainfall. Relentless heavy rainfall continued over Bay County for the next few hours before beginning to taper off by 1600 UTC. In all, various locations across Bay

County saw as much as 10-15" of rainfall in the early morning hours of November 1, prompting numerous road closures and inundated/trapped vehicles.

Around the same time as Bay County's considerable flash flood event, rain was beginning to develop across the Southern Peninsula. An atmospheric sounding taken by the National Weather Service in Miami at 1200UTC recorded a Precipitable Water (PWAT) value of 2.15". PWAT indicates the amount of liquid water that would result if all the atmospheric moisture in a column was precipitated out - it is used as a proxy for how moist an atmosphere is. A PWAT reading of 2.15" in Miami is well beyond the 90th percentile of all soundings taken on November 1 at 1200UTC (per the Storm Prediction Center's Sounding Climatology) and nearing the recorded highest values for November 1 of 2.25", indicative of how anomalously moist the airmass was for this time of year. Taking advantage of an exceptionally moist atmosphere, prolific shower and thunderstorm growth was observed in the morning hours of November 1 across the Florida Peninsula. By 1600UTC on November 1, a large and organized swath of moderate to heavy rainfall had developed stretching from the Southern tip of the Peninsula to the Orlando metro area. This swath persisted over these areas for most of the day and into the early evening hours of November 1. Multiple pockets of training storms were observed throughout the day, producing some of the event's highest rainfall accumulations. Notably, Riviera Beach in Northern Palm Beach County saw upwards of 15-20" of rainfall throughout the day on November1, and areas just inland of Fort Pierce saw upwards of 10".

During the evening hours of November 1 into the early morning hours of November 2, this organized swath of moderate to heavy rainfall pushed northward, focusing on East-Central Florida. Strong easterly winds caused storms to consistently re-develop along the immediate coast of East Central Florida overnight. This converged with other approaching thunderstorms to lead to robust growth of widespread storms over the area. In addition, this strong easterly flow acted to bring more moist air towards the state, resupplying moisture that was actively being precipitated out in ongoing thunderstorms. Repetitively developing thunderstorms capable of producing very heavy rainfall rates over the same local areas were observed in numerous locations throughout the East Coast overnight. Overnight radar imagery indicated portions of Brevard County, namely the Palm Bay and Melbourne areas, were beginning to record exceptionally high rainfall accumulations in a short time. In fact, by 1200UTC on November 2, radar-estimated rainfall accumulations over these areas had recorded 10-12" of rainfall in the last 12 hours, with nearly 9" of that rainfall falling in just the previous 6 hours.

Some of the event's worst instances of flash flooding occurred in the morning and early afternoon hours of November 2. By daybreak on November 2, the swath of moderate to heavy rainfall had remained essentially stationary across the Central Peninsula. Areas along the East Coast continued to show the locally heaviest rainfall rates as onshore flow interacted with the coastline to help force repeated and explosive thunderstorm development along the immediate coastline. Consequentially, the heaviest of these cells were still occurring over a localized area in Brevard County, near Palm Bay and Melbourne. With radar imagery indicating that heavy rain would persist over these areas for multiple hours to come alongside the context that over 10" of rain had already fallen overnight, a Flash Flood Emergency was issued by the National Weather Service in Melbourne – the first and only such issuance throughout the event (Fig. 2). A Flash

Flood Emergency is the highest level of Flash Flood Warning and is reserved for ongoing catastrophic flash flooding and/or active water rescues being performed.

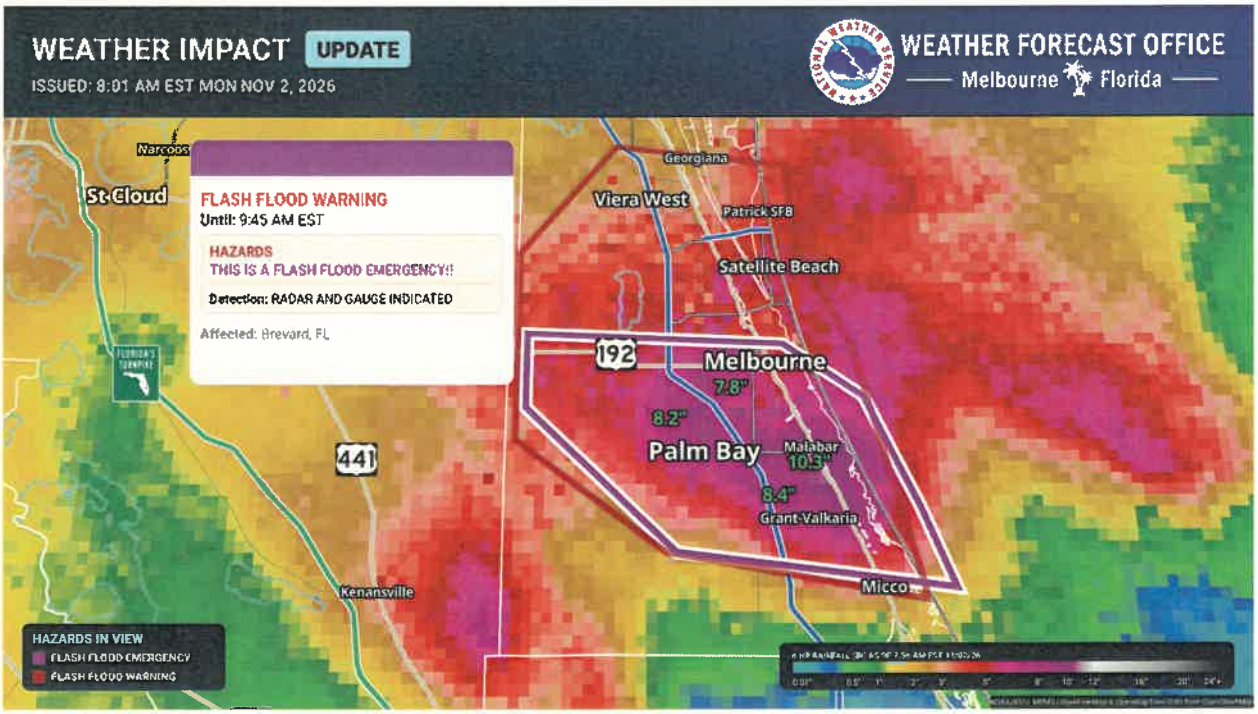


Fig. 2: Flash Flood Emergency over portions of Brevard County, issued at 1356UTC on 11/02 by the National Weather Service in Melbourne.

Heavy rainfall continued throughout the day on November 2 overtop the Flash Flood Emergency areas. Rainfall did not begin to subside in these areas until nearly 2000UTC on November 2. By this point, radar-estimated rainfall accumulations across Southern Brevard County were exceeding as much as 25-30" in some locations. Instances of significant and impactful flash flooding were not limited just to the East Coast on November 2. Areas along the Southwestern edge of the swath of rainfall, in Highlands, Hardee, and DeSoto Counties, saw locally upwards of 10" of rainfall on November 2, increasing their event-total to upwards of 15-25".

By nightfall on November 2, upper-level support began to taper as the disturbance aloft split and weakened. As a result, the organized complex of showers and storms over Central and East-Central Florida gradually began to weaken. Elsewhere, rainfall continued across South Florida as a line of thunderstorms worked its way eastward and northeastward across the region. This additional swath of rainfall contributed to as much as 10" of additional rainfall over portions of Southeast Florida in the afternoon and evening hours of November 2 before finally waning by 0600UTC on November 3.

From October 31 to November 3, broad areas of 5-10"+ were observed for nearly all Peninsula locations outside of the immediate West Coast. This includes a localized area in the Central Panhandle, including Bay County, of 10-15". Numerous locations, including areas in Central and South Florida, saw rainfall totals exceeding 15-20" of rainfall. The event's highest rainfall accumulations occurred in Southern Brevard County, near Melbourne and Palm Bay,

where upwards of 25-30" of rainfall fell. This is also where the event's highest observation occurred; an observation of 24.91" in Malibar, FL. Similarly high rainfall observations were observed elsewhere in Brevard County, including a 23.69" observation in Grant-Valkaria and a 19.75" in Palm Bay.

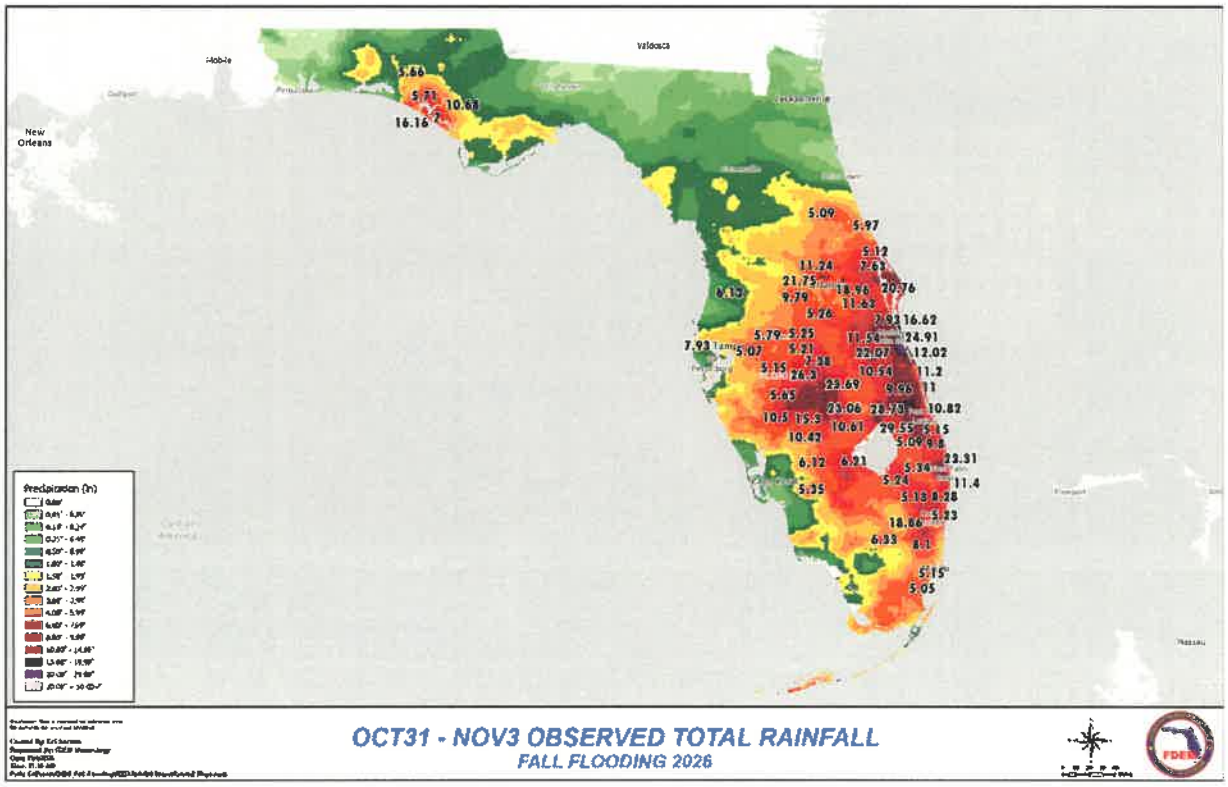


Fig. 3: Event-total rainfall (October 31st – November 3rd). Data includes both observations and radar-estimated accumulations. Data supplied by the National Weather Service.

Prior to the event, 30 and 60-day rainfall anomalies across the Peninsula, particularly across the East Coast, were already running upwards of 5-8" above average. This exasperated impacts, as saturated soils allowed the rainfall thresholds required to achieve flash flooding to be lower than would be otherwise required. In November alone, rainfall accumulations at KMLB are now running 13.28" above the 30-year normal values. The event-total highest rainfall observation of 24.91" in Brevard County is equivalent to 49% of the entire average annual rainfall expected in the county. The average recurrence interval (ARI) is the estimated statical average between the occurrence of an impactful event, in this case a flash flood. Multiple rainfall events that exceed the 1,000-year ARI threshold, including in Brevard County and in Rivera Beach, FL.

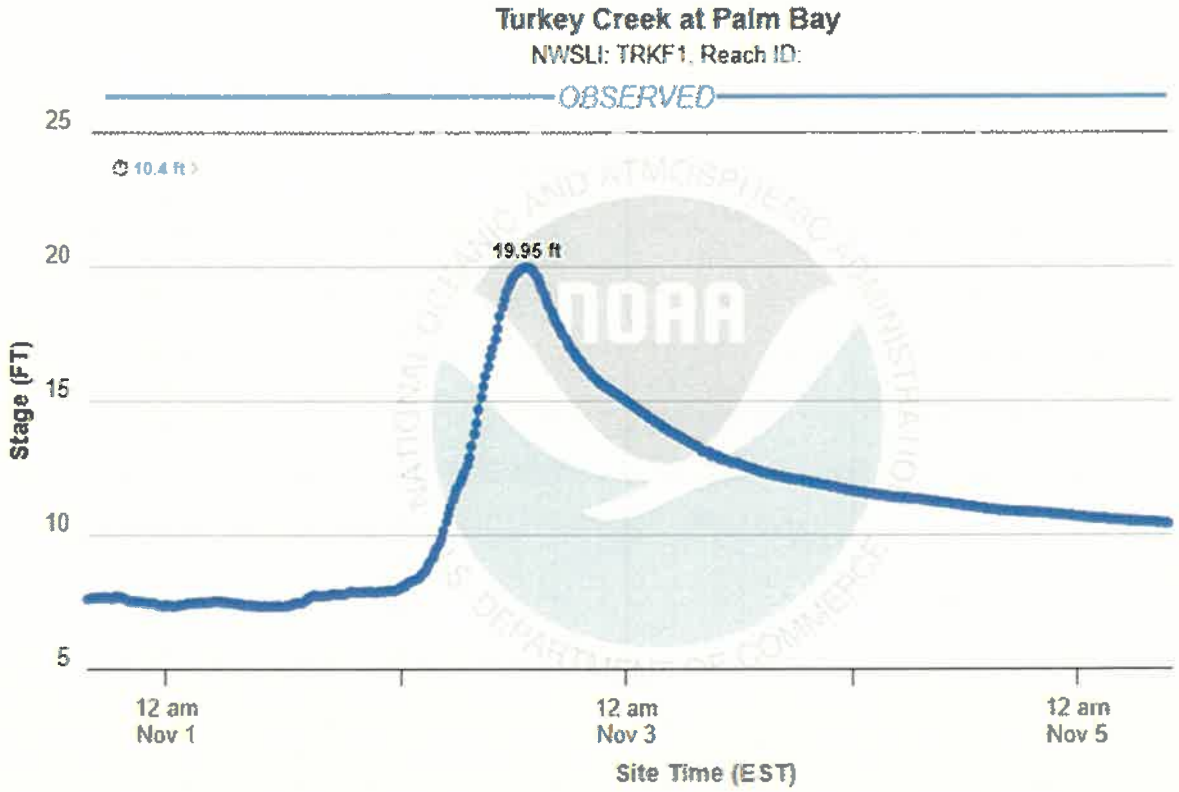


Fig. 4: Turkey Creek at Palm Bay hydrograph, valid 11/01 through 11/05. A crest of 19.95 ft is more than 5ft above the previous record set during Tropical Storm Fay (2008).

On November 2, multiple creeks in Brevard County that empty into the Indian River rose rapidly. Turkey Creek at Palm Bay rose to a stage of 19.95 ft (Fig. 4), which is more than 5 ft above the previous record stage seen in Tropical Storm Fay (2008). Between 730 am and 830 am local time, Turkey Creek was rising at a rate of 1.84 ft/hr, an exceptional rate of rise for a creek in a low elevation area of East Central Florida. From the onset of the event to crest, the creek rose more than 12 feet, resulting in widespread inundation on its north bank, impacting homes, some experiencing inundation up to 4 feet. A similar response was also seen at Crane Creek at Melbourne, which exceeded the record crest experienced by Tropical Storm Fay (2008) by more than a foot. These creeks ordinarily discharge quickly into the Indian River, however with the extreme rainfall occurring along and over the Indian River in Brevard County, the tidal estuary rose around 1.4 ft (Fig. 5), which impeded these creeks from discharging, lengthening the time frame of inundation for areas flooding along these creeks.

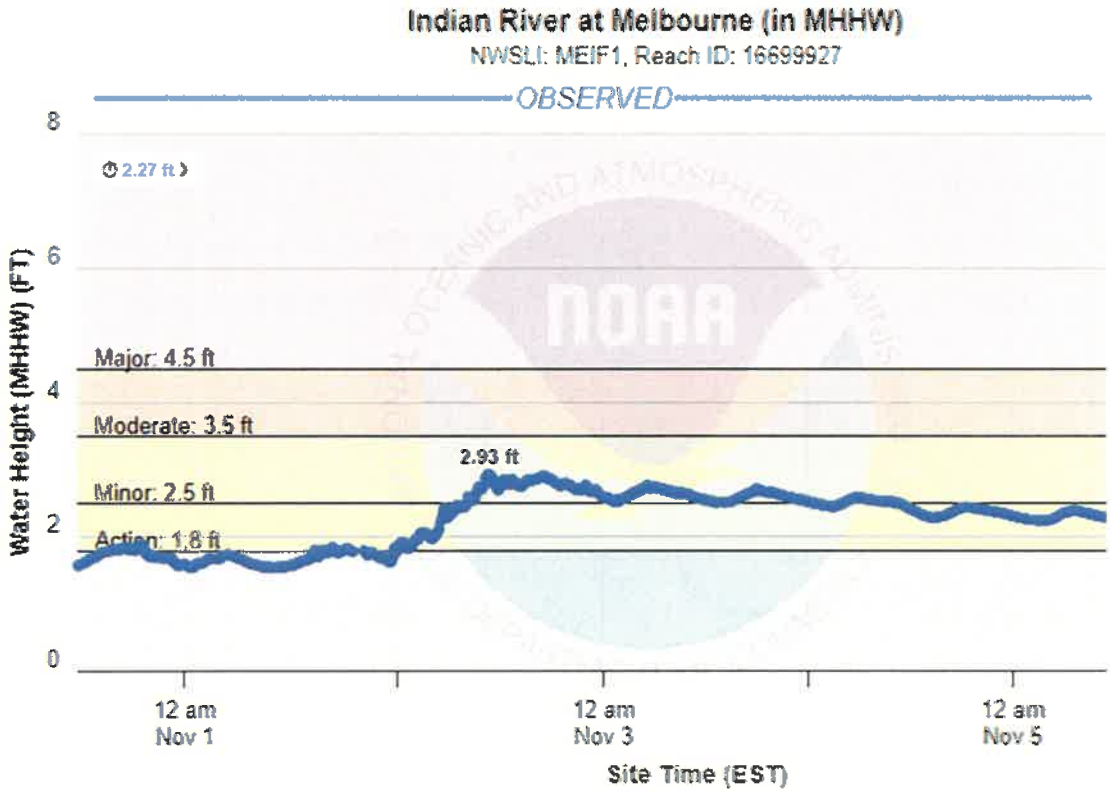


Fig. 5: Indian River at Melbourne hydrograph, valid 11/01 through 11/05.

Further south in Brevard County, a portion of the Fellsmere Canal experienced significant erosion due, with the north side of a portion of the canal collapsing, resulting in water diverting through the breach to further downstream in swamp land in far Southern Brevard County above 5 miles west of the Sebastian River Entrance to the Indian River. These small stream and canal responses in Brevard County aligned with the area of maximum rainfall in this event of 24-28 inches, most of which fell in a 12-hour period.

As a result of significant rainfall across East Central Florida, particularly in Brevard County, the St Johns River began to rise steadily at Melbourne and near Cocoa. Major flooding is forecast by November 6 with an eventual crest near 17.1 ft around 11/10 (Fig. 6). The St Johns River is a slow flowing south to north moving river in Florida. River forecast points near Geneva, Sanford, Deland, and Astor are expected to crest in moderate to major flood stage over the next 2 to 3 weeks. Even after the river crests, water levels above the moderate flood level are expected to persist well into December, with portions of the river potentially remaining in flood stage into January 2027. This long duration flood has occurred previously on the St Johns following Hurricanes Ian (2022) and Hurricane Milton (2024), where the St Johns River at Astor remained above flood stage for months. The long duration flood expected on the St Johns in this event mirroring what has been seen in significant hurricanes underscores the severity of the flooding in the St Johns River Basin.

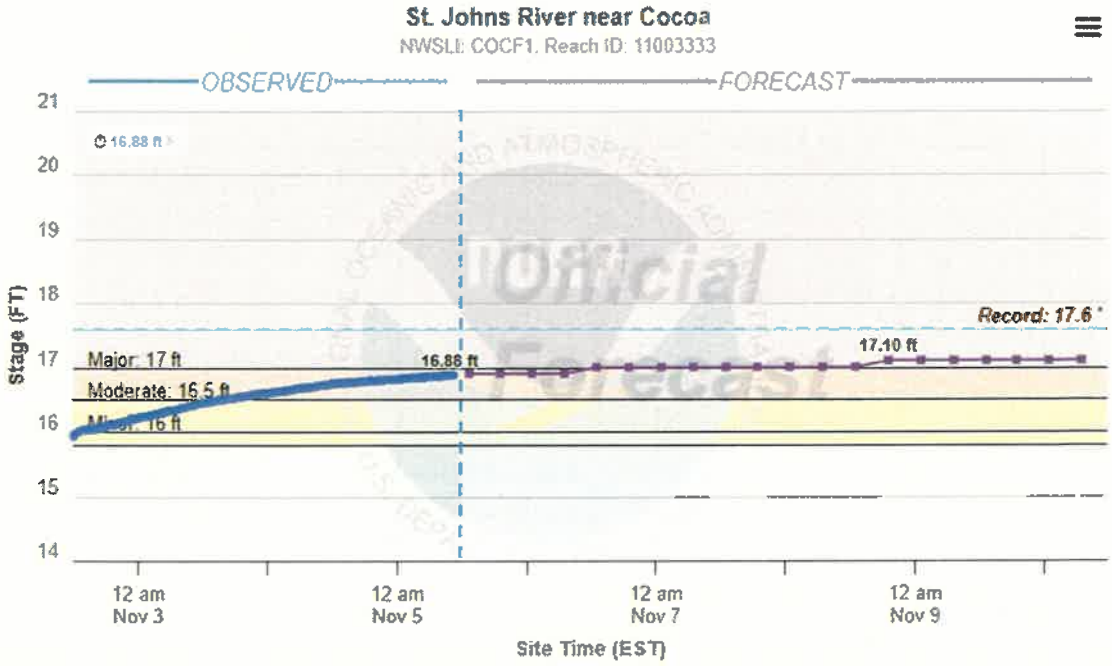


Fig. 6: St. Johns River near Cocoa hydrograph, valid 11/03 through 11/10.

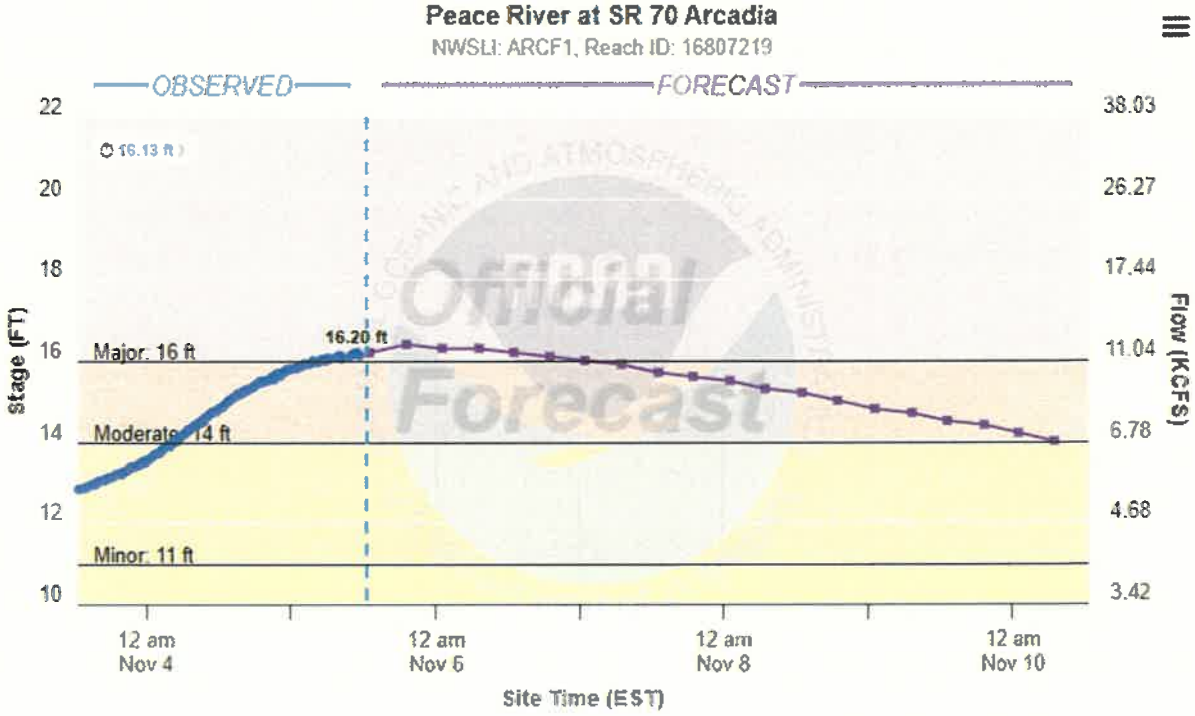


Fig. 7: Peace River at SR 70 Arcadia hydrograph, valid 11/04 through 11/10.

Another area of heavy rainfall occurred over Highlands, Hardee, and Desoto Counties. This resulted in significant rises on Charlie Creek and the lower Peace River. The rainfall led to major riverine flooding on the Peace River near Arcadia on November 5. The Peace River reached major flood stage due to contributions from Charlie Creek (Fig. 7). Near Gardner, FL, Charlie Creek crested at 18.56 ft, the 4th highest crest on record. The Peace River at Arcadia crested near 16.2

feet, which is the 13th highest crest on record for the site, inundating numerous residences and structures on the west bank of the river near State Road 70.

Throughout the event, various National Weather Service Weather Forecast Offices throughout the state of Florida issued numerous flood-related watches and warnings. The National Weather Services in Melbourne and Miami both issued a Flood Watch at 0443UTC for Inland Palm Beach County, Metro Palm Beach County, Inland Broward County, Metro Broward County, Inland Miami-Dade County, Metropolitan Miami Dade, Coastal Palm Beach County, Coastal Broward County, Coastal Miami Dade County, Far South Miami-Dade County, valid through the afternoon of November 2.

The first flash flood warning was issued by NWS Tallahassee on November 2, at 1053UTC. Over the following 48 hours, 30 flash flood warnings were issued across Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Brevard, Palm Beach, Seminole, Okeechobee, Bay, Broward, and Miami-Dade Counties. Seven of these flash flood warnings had a considerable damage tag attached, meaning a highly dangerous and life-threatening flash flood was ongoing, capable of causing damage occurring with water levels in excess of 1 ft. Additionally, a flash flood warning in Brevard County on November 2 had an emergency tag attached to it indicating a rare, life-threatening flash flood with water rescues ongoing. It is also the highest tier of flood warnings, reserved for flash flooding capable of producing a catastrophic threat to life and property. Nine Areal flood warnings were issued throughout the event for Mainland Monroe, Okeechobee, Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, Desoto, Hardee, Highlands, and Brevard Counties. River flood warnings were issued for Lake, Volusia, Brevard, DeSoto, Manatee, Hardee, Hillsborough, and Seminole Counties. Two severe thunderstorm warnings were also issued in Miami-Dade, Indian River and St. Lucie Counties for radar indicated wind gusts up to 60mph.

II. Effective Response and Recovery is Beyond the Capability of the State and Affected Local Governments – 44 C.F.R. § 206.36(b)(1)

The State of Florida is still responding to and recovering from the catastrophic impacts of Hurricane Isaias. This new flooding event has severely impacted a different geographic region of the State and further strained statewide mutual aid options and taxed local and nonprofit partners who are responding to Hurricane Isaias. State and FEMA efforts to assist Florida communities with recovery are only just beginning for Hurricane Isaias and have been complicated by simultaneous response and recovery.

Debris Impacts

Widespread flooding across the Florida Peninsula has inundated residential communities in multiple counties, including Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, and Brevard, creating a substantial and expanding debris-removal mission. In Brevard County alone, more than 2,000 residents have reported flooding impacts to their homes. Significant residential flooding has also been documented in Riviera Beach and Port St. Lucie, with additional impacts expected to be identified as floodwaters recede and assessments continue.

Flooded residences are expected to generate substantial quantities of disaster-related debris, including saturated furniture, appliances, drywall, flooring, insulation, cabinetry, and other

household contents, as well as construction and demolition materials. As residents regain access to their homes, these materials will increasingly accumulate along public rights-of-way, requiring extensive collection, hauling, and disposal operations. Flood-related wastewater releases have also been documented across affected counties, including sewage-contaminated floodwater in a residential community in Indian River County, further complicating the anticipated handling and disposal of flood-damaged materials. Flooded and obstructed roadways, overwhelmed drainage systems, and continued inundation are further limiting access to affected communities and complicating debris assessments.

FEMA's historical debris estimating guidance, based on empirical studies conducted by FEMA and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), identifies approximately 25–30 cubic yards of personal property debris per flooded single-family residence without a basement. The State is evaluating the geographic extent of inundation, potentially impacted residential structures, and available flood-depth information to develop preliminary debris estimates using this established methodology.

The full magnitude of the debris-removal mission remains unknown as flooding continues, additional residential impacts are identified, and debris placement along public roadways is only beginning. Affected local governments face substantial collection and disposal demands while continuing flood response and infrastructure recovery operations. Debris quantities and associated costs are expected to increase substantially as additional communities become accessible and assessments progress, with preliminary estimates refined as field observations and collection data become available.

Palm Beach Aircraft Incident

On November 1, 2026, at approximately 1250 EST, a Learjet 60 aircraft carrying two crew and seven passengers crashed onto SR-809 between 10th Avenue N and Canal 9 Road in Lake Worth Beach, Palm Beach County. The aircraft exploded upon impact, resulting in the fatalities of all individuals on board, and generating a large crater, fireball, and a debris field extending more than five miles. As of 11-1-26 at 2134 EST, power had been shut off in the area as crews responded to the scene.

An evacuation order was issued for over 600 residents of Green Acres Mobile Home Community, and the Florida Department of Transportation was assisting with the closure of SR 809 and traffic redirection around the incident site. Florida Power and Light (FPL) deployed power restoration crews to the impacted area and the American Red Cross is managing one shelter in Palm Beach in response to the incident with an overnight county of 30 people.

Weather conditions are a significant area of focus in the ongoing National Transportation Safety Board investigation. Prior to the crash, the aircraft crew reported encountering light, clear icing, moderate turbulence, and precipitation while operating at approximately 35,000 feet. The crew subsequently reported accumulating ice and requested clearance to climb to 37,000 feet in an effort to address the changing conditions. Less than 30 seconds after receiving clearance, the aircraft entered a rapid descent, and the crew declared an emergency. Heavy rainfall and scattered thunderstorms were also reported across the South Florida area at the time of the incident.

Investigators are examining the potential effects of icing, turbulence, precipitation, and other atmospheric conditions on aircraft performance and control.

Historic Event Comparison

On April 12–13, 2023, Broward County experienced a historic rainfall and flooding event after an intense storm system produced exceptionally heavy rainfall across South Florida. Some areas received more than 20 inches of rain within approximately 24 hours, overwhelming drainage systems and causing widespread flash flooding. Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport recorded approximately 25.91 inches in a 24-hour period, setting a local record.

Fort Lauderdale and surrounding communities experienced significant flooding, resulting in submerged vehicles, flooded homes and businesses, road closures, and disruptions to critical infrastructure. Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport temporarily closed due to flooding, and emergency responders conducted water rescues as residents became stranded in flooded areas.

The event significantly affected transportation, public services, businesses, and residents throughout the county. The severity of the rainfall overwhelmed existing stormwater management infrastructure, highlighting vulnerabilities associated with drainage capacity, urban development, and extreme rainfall events.

To date, Public Assistance obligations total over $71 million and valid Individual Assistance registrations are 20,669, with $28.5 million approved under the Individuals and Households Program.

While the April 2023 event was concentrated primarily in Broward County, this event has affected a broader geographic area including portions of Central Florida, the Treasure Coast, and South Florida, creating simultaneous response and recovery challenges for multiple counties and local jurisdictions. Impacts from the current event related to structural damage, debris removal, and infrastructure repairs will not be fully realized until floodwaters recede but are anticipated to far exceed the damages caused by the Broward County flooding event.

Evaluation of the Severity, Magnitude, and Impact of the Disaster on Individuals and Households

Per 44 C.F.R. 206.48(b), the factors FEMA will consider measuring the severity, magnitude, and impact of the disaster and to evaluate the need for assistance to individuals under the Stafford Act include the following:

1. State Fiscal Capacity and Resources Availability;
2. Uninsured Home and Personal Property Losses;
3. Disaster Impacted Population Profile;
4. Impact to Community Infrastructure;
5. Casualties; and
6. Disaster-Related Unemployment.

Given the nature of this event and frequently changing information, the State of Florida offers the following impact statement to support its request and to make a showing of the presence of the above factors.

State Fiscal Capacity and Resource Availability

In response to Hurricane Isaias making landfall in the Florida Peninsula, on the morning of October 6, 2026, the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) and its partners activated the SEOC in Tallahassee to a Level One activation. This measure ensured that the full breadth of state and local resources and partners were mobilized to coordinate before, during, and after landfall. At the time of this writing on November 5, 2026, the SERT has been activated and working, with SEOC coverage for 30 days and counting. This new flooding event has severely impacted a different geographic region of the State and further strained statewide mutual aid options and taxed local and nonprofit partners who are responding to Hurricane Isaias.

Since 2019, the State of Florida has experienced presidentially declared major disasters with Individual Assistance designations. This includes Hurricane Ian, Nicole, Idalia, Debby, Helene, and Milton which impacted many of the same communities experiencing flooding.

Frequent natural disasters have driven up household recovery costs across the board, and many Florida communities have not had adequate time or resources to complete their recovery before re-impact. Protracted long-term recovery, repeated infrastructure damage, and the societal impacts of frequent natural disasters are all factors that demonstrate the necessity of additional financial assistance for individuals and households impacted by.

Florida currently has the highest number of Dengue Fever cases nationwide. The State has had to request mutual aid to continue spraying to reduce the possibility of spreading. The high rainfall totals in areas with a large number of cases and increased amount of stagnant water poses a significant health threat to the residents of Florida.

Uninsured Home and Personal Property Losses

Most damaged households in the impacted counties are expected to lack flood insurance, leaving most of this loss uninsured. Standard homeowners and renters' insurance policies exclude rising-water flood damage, and new NFIP policies carry a 30-day waiting period, so residents cannot buy coverage for this event after the fact. In Brevard County, the hardest-hit county, only about 17% of households carry an NFIP policy (roughly 40,900 policies written or renewed in the 12 months prior to August 2026, per OpenFEMA data).

While all nine counties identified in this request participate in the NFIP, much of the flooding occurred outside mapped Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs), in neighborhoods such as Palm Bay, West Melbourne, Port St. Lucie, and Fort Pierce where lenders do not require flood coverage and take-up is lowest.

Insured households also face gaps. NFIP building coverage caps at $250,000 and contents at $100,000, but contents coverage is optional and often not purchased, and NFIP does not provide any funding for temporary housing.

Floodwater depths of just a few inches inside homes can destroy flooring, drywall, cabinetry, HVAC ductwork, water heaters, and nearly all furniture, appliances and clothing at floor level. Manufactured homes, concentrated in many of the impacted communities, sustain frame and underbelly damage that commonly makes them a total loss at relatively low water depths. Flood-damaged homes face rapid mold growth, so many will be uninhabitable for weeks to months.

Rainfall of 12 to 30 inches over 36 to 48 hours put floodwater inside homes across entire subdivisions, with the deepest and most widespread residential flooding in southern Brevard (Palm Bay, West Melbourne, Malabar, Grant-Valkaria), Northern Indian River (Sebastian, Roseland, Barefoot Bay) and St. Lucie (Fort Pierce, Port St. Lucie). Riverine flooding along the St. Johns and Peace rivers is still rising and will add damaged homes even after this request is submitted.

While accurate catastrophic insurance claims data is unavailable at the time of this request, for comparison, in the federally declared Broward County flood event of 2023, over 14,000 claims were filed and losses were estimated at $90,435,517. That event brought very similar flash flooding impacts, limited to a single Florida county. In this event, the State anticipates exponentially larger losses to both insured and uninsured property throughout the impacted communities.

Abandoned and submerged vehicles remain in Palm Bay and other neighborhoods. Many working households have no other means of transportation to work, school or medical care, and auto insurance is often absent on older vehicles.

Six shelters opened with peak census of 45; although many reports of displaced households are staying with family or in hotels at their own expense. Rental housing vacancy in the impacted area is limited in DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, and Okeechobee; limiting short-term housing options at FMR.

Hazard Mitigation and National Flood Insurance Program

Per 44 CFR Part 206.432(2) and 44 CFR Part 201.5(a), the State has an approved Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan in effect and is therefore eligible for up to 20% of federal disaster assistance in funding for the HMGP. Therefore, the State is respectfully requesting an HMGP declaration with funding up to 20% of the federal disaster assistance amounts.

The State maintains a comprehensive hazard mitigation program designed to identify and reduce long-term risks from natural hazards, promote the effective use of available mitigation funding, and strengthen the capacity of State and local governments to implement mitigation projects. Consistent with 44 C.F.R. § 201.5, the State's enhanced mitigation planning framework supports an integrated, risk-informed approach to disaster recovery and long-term risk reduction. Florida's Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved in 2023 and remains in effect until August 23, 2028. The State has already begun efforts to update the plan for the next planning cycle.

Enhanced HMGP funding would provide the State and its local governments with an essential opportunity to implement cost-effective, forward-looking mitigation measures that reduce future disaster losses, address identified vulnerabilities, protect public investments, and improve resilience to recurring and future hazards. The State is committed to administering available mitigation funding effectively and in accordance with applicable federal requirements, with an emphasis on projects that deliver measurable risk reduction and support long-term community recovery.

The State respectfully requests that FEMA, and any other appropriate federal authorities, give full consideration to the State's mitigation efforts, demonstrated mitigation capabilities, and eligibility for enhanced HMGP funding in evaluating this request for a Presidential major disaster declaration and determining the appropriate level of federal assistance.

The State further requests consideration of its hazard mitigation capabilities, policies, and implemented mitigation measures in evaluating this declaration request, consistent with 44 C.F.R. § 206.48(a)(4). The State and its local jurisdictions have utilized federal, state, and local funding to complete mitigation efforts intended to reduce disaster-related damages, protect public infrastructure and critical facilities, minimize risks to life and property, and strengthen community resilience to future hazard events. These measures demonstrate the importance of sustained investment in mitigation before, during, and after disasters and should be considered in evaluating the impacts of this incident, including where mitigation measures may have reduced the extent of disaster-related damages.

Additionally, the State has demonstrated strong capacity to implement the HMGP. Across 16 open disaster grants, the State has closed 28% of projects, with 44% of projects ongoing and 28% of projects pending obligation. The State has managed billions in HMGP dollars efficiently and effectively. The State participates in Program Administration by States and has undertaken all allowable delegations of authority to more effectively implement this program.

Florida remains committed to ensuring that HMGP funding is administered efficiently, strategically, and in a manner that maximizes disaster risk reduction across the State. Florida prioritizes mitigation funding for the communities most severely impacted by a disaster, while maintaining additional opportunities for eligible communities that were not directly impacted to access available funding through the State's established tiered funding system. This approach ensures that resources are directed first toward the areas with the greatest immediate needs while providing a mechanism to maximize the use of available funding for broader statewide mitigation priorities.

To support the effective administration and timely implementation of HMGP funding, Florida maintains a multidisciplinary team of qualified professionals, including program and project management experts, mitigation planning specialists, engineers with benefit-cost analysis expertise, environmental and historic preservation specialists, and financial management professionals. These resources, including both State personnel and contracted experts, provide the technical and administrative capacity necessary to advance projects, address regulatory and programmatic requirements, resolve implementation challenges, and streamline the delivery of mitigation assistance. Florida's investment in these specialized capabilities demonstrates its

commitment to the responsible stewardship of federal funds and its capacity to administer a substantial portfolio of mitigation projects.

Hazard mitigation projects frequently involve complex planning, engineering and design, environmental and historic preservation reviews, permitting, property acquisition, procurement, coordination among multiple levels of government, and construction activities that extend over several years. These processes are essential to ensuring that projects comply with federal requirements, achieve their intended risk-reduction outcomes, and protect the public interest. As a result, the timing of expenditures and the liquidation of obligations may not align with the timing of federal awards or the initial obligation of funds.

Below is a table that demonstrates the HMGP portfolio that Florida is currently managing including that Florida has over 2,200 projects over 16 disasters, which represents billions of dollars. The table also shows that Florida is drawing down funds as Subrecipients submit requests for reimbursement, as well as working closely with Subrecipients to ensure projects remain on schedule and continue to submit requests for reimbursement in a timely manner. The State recognizes its responsibility to ensure the timely and effective administration of federal mitigation funds, maintain appropriate financial and programmatic oversight, address implementation challenges, and advance approved projects toward completion.

However, Florida recognizes the importance of timely expenditure of obligated funds and is actively exploring strategies to improve reimbursement frequency and reduce the percentage of unliquidated obligations. These efforts include evaluating mechanisms to establish more frequent reimbursement submissions and incorporating appropriate contractual requirements for subrecipients to request reimbursement on a more regular basis. By improving reimbursement practices, strengthening monitoring procedures, and reinforcing accountability throughout the grant administration process, Florida intends to reduce the accumulation of unliquidated obligations while maintaining appropriate financial controls and compliance with applicable requirements.

Disaster	UDO/ULO	Declared	CLP date	Projects Open	Projects Pending	Closed	Total Projects	Closeout Rate
4177	100%	May-14	Feb-26	1	0	39	40	97.50%
4280	84%	Sep-16	Jun-26	1	0	21	22	95.45%
4283	76%	Oct-16	Jul-26	16	0	82	98	83.67%
4337	73%	Sep-17	Mar-29	209	11	309	529	58.41%
4399	28%	Oct-18	Oct-27	114	0	51	165	30.91%
4468	52%	Oct-19	Dec-27	21	0	15	36	41.67%
4486	43%	Aug-21	May-28	103	11	25	139	17.99%
4564	56%	Sep-20	Feb-28	20	4	15	39	38.46%
4673	19%	Sep-22	Oct-28	215	108	22	347	6.34%
4680	35%	Dec-22	Jul-28	45	19	5	69	7.25%
4709	10%	Apr-23	Jun-29	10	9	0	19	0.00%
4734	20%	Aug-23	Jan-30	72	96	10	179	5.59%
4794	15%	Jun-24	Apr-30	3	7	0	10	0.00%
4806	11%	Aug-24	Jun-30	28	46	21	95	22.11%
4828	19%	Sep-24	Apr-30	65	181	7	253	2.77%
4834	16%	Oct-24	Jan-31	58	150	4	212	1.89%
TOTAL	41%			981	642	626	2252	27.80%

Florida remains dedicated to maximizing the impact of federal mitigation investments, expediting eligible project implementation, and reducing long-term disaster risk for communities throughout the State. The State respectfully requests that FEMA recognize these demonstrated capabilities and ongoing improvements when evaluating Florida's eligibility for and capacity to administer enhanced HMGP funding under 44 C.F.R. §§ 201.5 and 206.432.

Floodplain Management

Most flood insurance policies currently providing coverage in Florida are underwritten by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), managed by FEMA. As a coastal low-lying state susceptible to hurricanes and flash flooding, it is imperative that Florida-based policyholders of the NFIP are prioritized in claims handling and payment practices. Expedient claim payments will ensure impacted policyholders are able to recover as the Hurricane season continues. This will also make Florida eligible for the FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance Swift Current grant program which is intended to provide funding to mitigate NFIP insured structures after a major disaster declaration following a flood-related disaster event to reduce risk against future flood damage.

With floodwaters not expected to recede for weeks in some areas, it is highly likely that many properties will experience substantial damage and local community capacity may become overwhelmed with the need to conduct substantial damage estimates, permit reviews, and code compliance efforts.

Furthermore, the State maintains a strong Floodplain Management program to ensure our 438 NFIP participating communities remain compliant with the NFIP minimum requirements, and their locally adopted higher floodplain management standards. Florida communities are committed to floodplain management practices, in fact, Florida communities represent over 1/3 of all NFIP participating communities. This commitment has reduced flood losses through wise development and land use decisions over the last 30 years. The communities impacted by the 2026 Fall Flooding are particularly vulnerable to flooding. Among the impacted counties, there are 449,788 NFIP policies which account for 26.04% of the state's total NFIP policies. Furthermore, policy coverage in these counties totals $74,155,308,000.00 or 16.08% of the state's total policy coverage. Consequently, many of the residents in these communities may face additional barriers navigating the insurance process as a result of being impacted by the 2026 Fall Flooding.

Subsequently, it is anticipated that NFIP rates will continue to rise exponentially due to the FEMA NFIP Rating Methodology which is increasing flood insurance premiums across the state. While Florida NFIP communities represent over 1/3 of all NFIP policies nationwide, that still results in only 13% of Florida's 11 million households in Florida having flood insurance.

It remains a priority for the State to utilize FMA Swift Current, as well as other Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs, to address repetitively flooded properties. Repetitive Loss (RL) properties are NFIP-insured structures that have two or more claims of over $1,000 within a 10-year period since 1978. Severe RL (SRL) properties are NFIP-insured structures that have at least four claim payments of over $5,000 each, with the total of the claims exceeding $20,000.The impacted area has 3,315 SRL properties and 8,365 RL properties. Without mitigation, including acquisition, elevation, and reconstruction, losses to these structures and additional structures will continue to occur, putting further strain on the NFIP.

If awarded HMGP and FMA Swift Current funding, the State would evaluate opportunities to leverage these resources to support the Elevate Florida program, a first-of-its-kind initiative designed to streamline and expedite the residential mitigation grant process. The program aims to provide timely assistance to eligible residents in reducing their vulnerability to future disasters while accelerating project implementation and completion. By leveraging innovative programmatic approaches within the existing authorities and processes available to FEMA and the State, Florida seeks to improve program efficiency, expedite the delivery of mitigation assistance, and achieve meaningful risk reduction for vulnerable homeowners and communities.

The State remains committed to responsible stewardship of federal funds, timely project delivery, and measurable reductions in disaster risk.

Disaster Impacted Population Profile

The impacted area combines large older-adult populations on the coast with rural, lower-income agricultural communities inland, both of which have limited capacity to recover without federal assistance. Seven of the nine counties in this request have a larger share of residents age 65 and older than the State of Florida as a whole, led by Highlands (about 35%), Indian River (33%) and Martin (31%) against roughly 20.5% statewide. The two exceptions, Hardee and Okeechobee Counties, instead carry high poverty and language-access needs.

Statewide Demographic Profile							
County	Total Population Estimate	Persons 65 years of Age or Older, Percent	Persons With a Disability, Percent	Persons in Poverty	Estimated of Mobile Homes, Percent	Clients Receiving Food Assistance (As of 8/26)	TANF Clients (As of 9/26)
Brevard	620,533	24.20%	16.02%	25,275	7.11%	47,345	669
DeSoto	34,719	23.77%	20.51%	2,419	33.34%	4,004	66
Hardee	25,508	16.30%	16.59%	2,078	27.35%	3,476	49
Highlands	103,808	35.93%	21.75%	9,609	22.93%	18,173	216
Indian River	160,464	31.78%	14.05%	8,920	9.32%	12,734	105
Martin	40,249	20.06%	19.21%	9,420	38.26%	8,253	40
Okeechobee	1,507,453	24.60%	12.25%	2,567	2.71%	3,246	14
Palm Beach	193,719	16.46%	15.42%	66,984	8.28%	119,346	831
St. Lucie	346,237	24.47%	15.16%	16,465	6.80%	39,607	245

Impact to Community Infrastructure

Intense flash flooding cut residents off from roads, drinking water, schools and public services, and regional drainage systems remain at capacity. The South Water Management District issued Emergency Order 2026-081-DAO on November 2 for flooding in several counties, including Highlands, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, Martin, and St. Lucie; and moved the Emergency Operations Center to a Level 2. Area pump stations are now running 24 hours a day. The S-193 Boat Lock on Taylor Creek in Okeechobee County has been closed to boat traffic and is now being utilized to move flood waters away from local communities until further notice. As of 1900 November 2, 2026, over 49 million gallons of water has been moved, and counties are still seeing a considerable amount of flooding. River flooding remains an additional concern. The Peace River is experiencing major flood stages in DeSoto through November 8; the anticipated crest is at 17feet.

Rural, Agricultural Communities

Hardee, DeSoto, Okeechobee, and Highlands Counties rely on citrus, cattle, vegetable and nursery agriculture. Flooded fields, groves and pastures will cut seasonal and farmworker hours during the harvest season, and many of these workers are renters in older or manufactured housing. Hardee County's poverty rate (20.5%) and non-English-speaking share (31.5%) point to the need for bilingual outreach and in-person registration assistance.

Employment and Household Income

Flood waters have forced business and school closures throughout the impacted communities. Impassable roadways and impacts to routine travel exacerbate income issues for workers who cannot access their place of work and parents who could not access childcare services. Many flood-impacted residents will also face the total loss of their vehicles in this event. With limited public transit options for those outside urban centers, the costs of personal

transportation losses can have cascading impacts to employment and their ability to earn household income.

Drinking Water and Wastewater

Boil water notices have been issued statewide. Department of Health-Palm Beach issued alerts on November 3 and 4 following wastewater spills at Blue Heron Boulevard and Gardens Road, near Washington Elementary Schools.

In Cocoa Beach, the utilities director reported that floodwaters inundated facilities, the wastewater treatment plant exceeded capacity, and the collection system was surcharged. Crews pumped water from manholes and asked residents to reduce nonessential water use to limit overflow risks.

West Palm Beach separately reported its sanitary sewer system operating at maximum capacity, with flooding impeding access to some utility facilities.

Brevard County warned that floodwaters can contain bacteria and chemicals. Inundated septic systems and flooded properties or industrial facilities warrant evaluation as potential contamination sources. Where contaminated water enters homes, disinfection and removal of damaged materials may be required before safe occupancy can be restored, increasing recovery costs and potentially prolonging temporary housing needs.

As of November 9, there were 676 Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) reported to the State Watch Office, totaling an estimated 6.8 million gallons released due to the 2026 Fall Flooding across the Florida Peninsula. These spills were listed as due to rain, flooding, power loss, overflows, or breaks-in-the-line. The overwhelming majority of the releases consisted of untreated sewage, exposing responders and residents to contaminated floodwaters as they are conducting cleanup and recovery operations. 37% of the spills occurred in Brevard County (3,689,950 gal), 26% in Palm Beach County (684,875 gal), and 21 % in St. Lucie County (236,000 gal), with the remaining spills reported across Desoto, Highlands, Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, and Seminole Counties. Of those 73 reported SSOs, 9 were greater than 100,000 gallons. Additional SSO's are expected to be reported in the forthcoming week as the floodwaters recede alongside anticipated rains and tidal effects in the impacted river basins, resulting in further damage, impacting the environment, and contaminating residences. While these numbers have been reported by utilities, the volume of private septic systems is not accounted for and would create additional health hazards.

Transportation

Storm reports include major road closures across Palm Bay, Melbourne, and West Melbourne. There are numerous amounts of stalled and abandoned vehicles in neighborhoods. Florida Department of Transportation is working directly with Hardee County to perform bridge assessments.

Highlands County Emergency Management requested South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) assistance to address a breach along Lake Istokpoga near Abell Rd off CR621. The breach has washed out Abell Rd, cutting off emergency access to 32 residences and creating an immediate life safety concern for residents. Requested support includes stabilization of the breach and temporary road- access restoration, to restore emergency ingress and egress and power restoration to reduce further risk to life and property.

Schools and Public Facilities

Due to roads being impassable and inundated with flood waters, schools have been closed for safety reasons or being damaged. In Palm Beach, nine schools are currently nonfunctional due to disruptions to essential utilities, including meals, potable water, and electricity. Facilities have sustained damage, and flood waters are impeding recovery operations. Water intrusion has affected school buildings, requiring thorough cleaning, sanitization, and remediation before students can safely return.

All nine counties in this request experienced school closures due to flooding impacts. In eight of the nine counties all of the schools were closed on November 3. This impacted not only children's ability to attend classes, but also many parents' ability to attend work.

Health and Medical

The fall flooding that the State of Florida is experiencing has significantly disrupted healthcare operations and critical public health infrastructure across the impacted counties. Power outages are preventing 49 healthcare facilities from operating routinely, limiting access to essential medical services and disrupting normal patient care operations.

In Melbourne, 84 people were evacuated from Sea Pines Rehabilitation Hospital due to flood water. There are currently 4 medical centers that do not have access to clean running water. These disruptions require immediate coordination to support patient relocations, maintain continuity of care, and assess facility conditions before normal operations can resume.

Public health risks have been further compounded by five boil water notices and 75 reported sanitary sewer overflow incidents, totaling approximately 4.89 million gallons. These conditions create immediate concerns regarding water safety, sanitation, and potential exposure to contaminated water. The overwhelming majority of the releases consisted of untreated sewage, exposing responders and residents to contaminated floodwaters as they are conducting cleanup and recovery operations. Affected jurisdictions must prioritize water quality monitoring, sanitation measures, damage assessments, and coordination with local utilities and public health officials to mitigate further risks.

Mass Care

Emergency feeding support is also being mobilized for affected communities. Emergency feeding needs are increasing while flooding disrupts the local organizations that ordinarily help meet those needs. Food bank feedback covering Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie, and Okeechobee counties indicate that providers have been heavily impacted and have been operating in disaster

response mode since November 3. The feedback reports an approximately 60 percent increase in normal demand, additional emergency mobile distributions scheduled for this week, and numerous local requests for assistance. Some partner agencies have closed because of flooding, with assessments underway to determine damage to food pantries and food inventories. These closures reduce access to established sources of food assistance while demand is rising.

The State's Human Services Branch has provided one truckload of food boxes to The Freedom Tour, a nonprofit partner, for distribution in Okeechobee County, and The Freedom Tour has provided two additional truckloads through other donated resources. Nonprofit partners have requested three additional truckloads for distribution in Melbourne and Melbourne Beach in Brevard County and Wauchula in Hardee County. Together, the increased demand, disrupted pantry operations, and requests for additional supplies demonstrate immediate needs that are placing further demands on State and voluntary-sector resources already supporting ongoing disaster operations, including Hurricane Isaias recovery. Federal assistance is needed to supplement these efforts and help affected households address essential needs while damage assessments and recovery operations continue.

Currently, six shelters are open, with operations spanning Okeechobee, St. Lucie, Palm Beach, and Brevard Counties. These facilities provide a combination of general population, special needs, and pet-friendly sheltering capabilities. Several locations are also receiving support through the American Red Cross. The overnight counts are fluctuating. The counties are assisting with evacuations and homes that have been red tagged; we anticipate these numbers to rise as assessments continue. Reporting shows that displaced residents are also lodging with friends and family but may not be a long-term solution.

The State is assisting in maintaining the operational capability to support local jurisdictions, address evolving sheltering needs, and ensure that individuals requiring general population or special needs accommodations have access to safe sheltering options. The State of Florida requests continued federal assistance and support to address ongoing emergency sheltering requirements and ensure the continued protection and care of disaster-affected populations.

Casualties

While the Chief Medical Examiner's Office has not yet confirmed the number of casualties that were a direct result of this flooding event, there are media reports of at least two fatalities. In addition, hundreds of Floridians required evacuation via boats, highwater vehicles, and rotary wing aircraft, with some requiring medical attention from emergency services personnel for injuries sustained before or during rescue.

Disaster Related Unemployment

The full economic impacts of this event remain to be seen, but significant flood inundation of residential, commercial, and government properties may exacerbate employment issues in communities whose labor markets have unemployment rates higher than the rest of Florida. Ranging from 4.6% in Martin County, to 6.3% in Highlands County, all nine requested counties have an unemployment rate higher than the state's average.

In addition, school closures, agriculture destruction, and infrastructure impacts will only increase employment barriers for residents of these communities. Disaster Unemployment Assistance can alleviate many of these barriers and ensure that survivors can maintain the baseline income necessary to navigate disaster recovery.

III. State Actions Taken – 44 C.F.R. §206.36(c)(1)

On November 2, 2026, I issued Executive Order No. 26-227, as amended by Executive Order No. 26-228, which directed the State Coordinating Officer to execute the State's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan in accordance with section 252.36(10), Florida Statutes, and Section 302(c) of the Stafford Act.

I have directed the activation of the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in response to the threat of the 2026 Fall Flooding, and FDEM is coordinating response measures across the State of Florida.

IV. State and Local Resources Committed to Alleviate the Results of the Disaster – 44 C.F.R. § 206.36(c)(3)

As of the date of this request, the State of Florida is projecting over $80 million for response costs with more anticipated as flood waters recede, confirmed widespread closures of roads, schools, county offices, and state parks, deployed flood-fighting equipment to numerous counties, and opened six shelters across the State of Florida.

FDEM continues to gather resource needs from affected counties and mobilize critical resources, such as pumps, generators, barricades, and other disaster support materials. FDEM implemented emergency protective measures to protect life and property during this event, including flood control measures. Multiple counties performed sandbag operations, declared local states of emergency, and opened general population and special needs shelters. FDEM's Logistics Section mobilized and/or deployed the following as of November 5, 2026:

- **3** 8-inch pumps, **1** 6-inch pump, **10,000** feet of hoses deployed to Brevard County
- **20** Metal "Road Flooded" Signs, **20** 4x4 A frame barriers, and **12** 6500W Generators deployed to DeSoto County
- **6** Large DOT Message Boards and **26** F-Type Water Traffic Barriers Deployed in Okeechobee County
- **4** 8-inch pumps deployed in Indian River County
- **20** dehumidifiers, **15** Road Closure Signs and Barricades, and **15** Dryers deployed in DeSoto County
- Tarps, sandbags, roadway barriers and barricades, traffic support equipment, dehumidifiers, and flood buckets have been deployed to the affected areas
- Multiple VAC trucks, generators, and pumps are staged across the state ready for deployment
- **1** point of distribution and **2** comfort stations operational in Okeechobee County and Palm Beach County

Furthermore, the following actions were initiated by the different sections and branches of the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) and continue to evolve:

Law Enforcement

- Total Law Enforcement Officers: **88**
  - **24** Florida Highway Patrol Officers
  - **64** Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission Officers
- FHP deploying a Quick Response Force (**10** Personnel) to the affected area
- **14** FHP troopers requested to Okeechobee County for traffic support
- FWC deploying **64** officers, **5** airboats, **4** shallow water boats, **12** highway UTVs, **4** Swamp Buggys, **1** Fat Truck, and **2** Drone Teams to the affected area
- **236** rescues have been conducted: FWC **(182)** FHP **(54)**

Community Support

- State Park Closures: **1**
- School Closures: **9** school districts
- Shelters: **6**
- **42** Business Damage Assessments recorded

Government Services

- **24** Polling Precincts were affected by the flooding and required relocation.

School Impacts

Palm Beach County

- Reporting damages to 3 facilities
  - Washing Elementary – Rivera Beach
  - Egret Lakes Elementary School – West Palm Beach
  - Seminole Trail – West Palm Beach

Transportation

- Road Closures:

  Brevard County
  - SR 520 – single lane closure both eastbound and westbound on SR 520 just to the west of Cape Canaveral Hospital
  - Closures affecting SR 513, south of SR 518
  - Closures affecting SR 507 at Sunlake Rd
  - Closures affecting SR 514 at US 1

  Broward County
  - [LANES IMPACTED NORTHBOUND] SR 845/Powerline Rd at NW 40th Ct. Two outside lanes closed due to flooding and 1 lane passable.
  - [LANES IMPACTED SOUTHBOUND] SR 845/Powerline Rd north of Copans Road. Two outside lanes closed due to flooding and 1 lane passable.

  Glades County

- US 27 south of Palmdale and north of Moore Haven 2 of 4 lanes closed traffic moving in both directions
- MOT moved on US27; both lanes open northbound. 1 of 2 lanes open southbound

Indian River County

- [FULL CLOSURE] SR 512 from Sebastian River Middle School to CR 510/SR 512 intersection, all lanes eastbound and westbound are underwater due to the St. Sebastian River cresting. EB lanes are closed to low vehicles. LEO's are onsite and are only allowing SUV's and Trucks to pass. The water does appear to have stopped rising but is draining very slowly.
- [LANES IMPACTED] SR A1A at Shorewinds Drive NB Lanes are impacted for 1000ft. Crews onsite with signage

St. Lucie County

- [FULL CLOSURE NORTHBOUND] SR5/US1 (94010) from Savannah Club Blvd (MP 3.733) to Rio Mar Drive (MP 5.449). There is approximately 500 feet of impacted outside lane northbound – water is slowly draining off. Three northbound turn lanes are partially covered with water but are passable. All other through lanes are clear.
- [FULL CLOSURE] Port Saint Lucie Blvd from Alcantarra to Darwin (City Roadway, but FDOT managed project) - All lanes closed due to flooding and unsafe roadway conditions
- [LANES IMPACTED] SR70 (94030) from 25th Street to 29th Street impacted. All three westbound lanes are still covered in water but inside lane is passable, two outside lanes are covered with water. Crews are onsite.
- [LANES IMPACTED] SR A1A/Shorewinds Drive (94060) from Ft Pierce Inlet State Park (MP 2.273) to Shorewinds Drive (MP 2.534) is under standing water but is passable. - MONITORING
- [LANES IMPACTED] Midway Road/SR712 from 25th Street to the White City Park entrance both lanes eastbound and westbound covered with water but passable

Turnpike

- Washout/MSE wall repair SB MM 75.9 (just South of the SB on / off ramps to Glades Rd). Single outside lane (1 of 3) closed. No impact to intersection or exiting traffic at this time. DMS messaging plan in place to encourage traffic to use exit north of Glades if we have abnormal delays. Repairs expected to be complete by evening rush today (11-4-26) but extreme weather may cause additional delays.
- SB MM 150 (Midway Road Bridge Palm Beach)- Asset maintenance has one SB lane closed. FHP on-site. Water has receded but we are not opening lane due to ongoing rain bands in the area. Will reevaluate as day goes by for reopening as soon as possible
- Yeehaw Junction (Exit 193) at intersection entrance. Staff on site, DMS message in advance, turn movement open at this time. AM contractor is currently pumping

Modal Overview

- **Airports:**
  - 20/21 Commercial Service Airports are open. Melbourne (MLB) is open for emergency operations only until 9:00 AM Tuesday, November 3. Of the open airports, three (3) have flight cancellations or service reductions (MIA, FLL, DJT)
  - Melbourne (MLB) is open for Emergency Operations Only due to flooding. Commercial flight cancellations and FAA traffic management programs continue at Miami (MIA), Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood (FLL) and President Donald J. Trump International (DJT); see Impacted airports below
  - As with any severe weather event, customers are encouraged to verify the status of their commercial flight with their airline prior to heading to the airport
  - In accordance with Airport Emergency Plans, airport staff are actively monitoring the weather situation and remain in close communication with key federal, state, local, and private industry partners
  - The following general aviation airports are IMPACTED:
    - Valkaria Airport (X59): Closed since 7:54 AM EST today, Monday, November 2; avgas not available through noon EST Tuesday (FAA NOTAM 11/007)
    - Bob White Field (X61): Closed for standing water; runway 09/27 closed through 7:24 AM EST Wednesday, November 4 (FAA NOTAM 11/022)
    - Melbourne Orlando International Airport (MLB) – Emergency Operations Only (4:13 PM EST Monday, November 2, through 9:00 AM EST Tuesday, November 3, per FAA NOTAM 11/02/26)

- **Rail:**
  - Brightline temporarily suspended train service between Orlando and West Palm Beach from Monday, November 2 through Wednesday, November 4, because of high water along the rail corridor. Service resumed after water levels receded and necessary repairs are completed.

- **Transit:**
  - 3 transit agencies suspended operations Monday, November 2:
    - St. Lucie County (ART) and Easter Seals Brevard closed entirely
    - Space Coast (Brevard County) suspended 11 routes

Health and Medical

- Health Facility Reporting System activated for Brevard, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Indian River, Martin, Seminole, and St. Lucie Counties
- Monitoring potential water issues and evacuations at the following locations:
  - Sea Pines Rehabilitation Hospital in Melbourne, FL – 84 evacuated
  - Avante at Melbourne in Melbourne, FL – Water restored, potentially on a Boil Water Notice
  - Holmes Regional Medical Center in Melbourne, FL – water tankers deployed
  - Orlando Health Melbourne Hospital in Melbourne, FL – water tankers deployed

- Kindred Hospital in Melbourne, FL – water tankers deployed
- HCA Florida Lake Monroe Hospital deploying Tiger Dams
- Additional ALF in Sanford deploying tiger dams on road

- DOH nurses deployed to General Population shelter at Parker Memorial Missionary Baptist Church in Brevard County
- St. Lucie County Open Special Needs Shelter at Fenn Center – 5 clients

Local Evacuation Orders

- Evacuation orders were issued for the following Counties: Indian River, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, Seminole, and St. Lucie.

Local Rescue Operations

- Brevard County has reported over **300** water rescues
- St. Lucie County has reported over **500** water rescue calls, with an estimated number of people rescued at nearly **1,200**

V. Certification of Compliance with Applicable Cost-Sharing Requirements – 44 C.F.R. § 206.36(c)(5)

I certify that State and local government obligations and expenditures for the current disaster will comply with all applicable cost sharing requirements of the Stafford Act.

VI. Field Damage Assessments Are Not Necessary to Determine the Requirement for Supplemental Federal Assistance Because the Disaster Is a Catastrophe of Unusual Severity and Magnitude – 44 C.F.R. § 206.36(d)

For this specific request, there is no need for damage assessments. The widespread destruction from this flooding should be more than sufficient to satisfy any arbitrary, per capita threshold for State or county damages. Consequently, the risk that a lightly impacted county would receive unnecessary Federal Assistance is minimal, at best. Given these considerations, damage assessments would be a clear waste of resources during a time of critical need.

Local communities are inundated with response activities but estimating thousands of homes are damaged. As of November 5, 2026, a large portion of the impacted areas remain inaccessible, and rescue efforts are ongoing. In Riviera Beach, just one of the many impacted municipalities, local search and rescue operations have reported 121 waypoints, 185 confirmed interactions, and have observed 242 damaged structures, 74 of which have sustained major damage. Additionally, through self-reporting, counties have identified 2,973 impacted residential structures to date Through desktop analysis of 1,362 of the reports, it is estimated that there is 1 destroyed, 152 with major damage, and 743 with minor damage. However, it is suspected that the 743 with minor damage experienced exposure to contaminated water. If this is confirmed through formal assessments, these homes would then be categorized as major damage, bringing this number to 895. Teams are still analyzing the additional 1,600+ self-reports and anticipate this number to grow as previously inaccessible areas are included.

With the continued riverine flooding forecast and full impacts of this event not yet realized, we anticipate the need for additional counties, categories of work, and program areas. As such, we will follow the traditional process of Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments.

VII. Conclusion

I have designated Jared Perdue, Executive Director of FDEM, as the State Coordinating Officer for this emergency. He is authorized to provide any further information, assurances, requests, or justification on my behalf. I have also designated Jared Perdue as the Governor's Authorized Representative.

Sincerely,



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Enclosures:
Executive Orders 26-227 and 26-228
FEMA Form 010-0-13