

## **Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act**

### **Sec. 303. Emergency Support and Response Teams (42 U.S.C. 5144)\***

(a) Emergency Support Teams – The President shall form emergency support teams of Federal personnel to be deployed in an area affected by a major disaster or emergency. Such emergency support teams shall assist the Federal coordinating officer in carrying out his responsibilities pursuant to this Act. Upon request of the President, the head of any Federal agency is directed to detail to temporary duty with the emergency support teams on either a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, as is determined necessary by the President, such personnel within the administrative jurisdiction of the head of the Federal agency as the President may need or believe to be useful for carrying out the functions of the emergency support teams, each such detail to be without loss of seniority, pay, or other employee status.

(b) Emergency Response Teams-

(1) Establishment - In carrying out subsection (a), the President, acting through the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall establish-

(A) at a minimum 3 national response teams; and

(B) sufficient regional response teams, including Regional Office strike teams under section 507 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002; and

(C) other response teams as may be necessary to meet the incident management responsibilities of the Federal Government.

(2) Target Capability Level - The Director shall ensure that specific target capability levels, as defined pursuant to the guidelines established under section 646(a) of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006, are established for Federal emergency response teams.

*\* This section of the Stafford Act has been amended by either the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2007, Pub. L. No. 109-295, 120 Stat.1355 (2006), signed on October 4, 2006, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006, Pub. L. No 109-308, 120 Stat. 1725 (2006), signed on October 6, 2006, or the Security and Accountability for Every Port Act of 2006, Pub. L. No. 109-347, 120 Stat. 1884 (2006), signed on October 13, 2006. The changes are effective for emergencies or major disasters declared on or after October 4, 6, or 13, 2006. For events before those dates, please consult an earlier version of the Stafford Act.*

- (3) Personnel - The President, acting through the Director, shall ensure that the Federal emergency response teams consist of adequate numbers of properly planned, organized, equipped, trained, and exercised personnel to achieve the established target capability levels. Each emergency response team shall work in coordination with State and local officials and onsite personnel associated with a particular incident.

Readiness Reporting - The Director shall evaluate team readiness on a regular basis and report team readiness levels in the report required under section 652(a) of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006.

### **Sec. 306. Performance of Services (42 U.S.C. 5149)**

- (a) Utilization of services or facilities of State and local governments - In carrying out the purposes of this Act, any Federal agency is authorized to accept and utilize the services or facilities of any State or local government, or of any agency, office, or employee thereof, with the consent of such government.
- (b) Appointment of temporary personnel, experts, and consultants; acquisition, rental, or hire of equipment, services, materials and supplies - In performing any services under this Act, any Federal agency is authorized
  - (1) to appoint and fix the compensation of such temporary personnel as may be necessary, without regard to the provisions of title 5, governing appointments in competitive service;
  - (2) to employ experts and consultants in accordance with the provisions of section 3109 of such title, without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates; and

to incur obligations on behalf of the United States by contract or otherwise for the acquisition, rental, or hire of equipment, services, materials, and supplies for shipping, drayage, travel, and communications, and for the supervision and administration of such activities. Such obligations, including obligations arising out of the temporary employment of additional personnel, may be incurred by an agency in such amount as may be made available to it by the President.

### **Sec. 403. Essential Assistance (42 U.S.C. 5170b)\***

- (a) In general - Federal agencies may on the direction of the President, provide assistance essential to meeting immediate threats to life and property resulting from a major disaster, as follows:

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- (1) Federal resources, generally - Utilizing, lending, or donating to State and local governments Federal equipment, supplies, facilities, personnel, and other resources, other than the extension of credit, for use or distribution by such governments in accordance with the purposes of this Act.
- (2) Medicine, durable medical equipment, food, and other consumables
  - Distributing or rendering through State and local governments, the American National Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Mennonite Disaster Service, and other relief and disaster assistance organizations medicine, durable medical equipment, food, and other consumable supplies, and other services and assistance to disaster victims.
- (3) Work and services to save lives and protect property - Performing on public or private lands or waters any work or services essential to saving lives and protecting and preserving property or public health and safety, including -
  - (A) debris removal;
  - (B) search and rescue, emergency medical care, emergency mass care, emergency shelter, and provision of food, water, medicine, durable medical equipment, and other essential needs, including movement of supplies or persons;
  - (C) clearance of roads and construction of temporary bridges necessary to the performance of emergency tasks and essential community services;
  - (D) provision of temporary facilities for schools and other essential community services;
  - (E) demolition of unsafe structures which endanger the public;
  - (F) warning of further risks and hazards;
  - (G) dissemination of public information and assistance regarding health and safety measures;
  - (H) provision of technical advice to State and local governments on disaster management and control;
  - (I) reduction of immediate threats to life, property, and public health and safety; and
  - (J) provision of rescue, care, shelter, and essential needs -
    - (i) to individuals with household pets and service animals;  
and
    - (ii) to such pets and animals.
- (4) Contributions - Making contributions to State or local governments or owners or operators of private nonprofit facilities for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this subsection.

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- (b) Federal share - The Federal share of assistance under this section shall be not less than 75 percent of the eligible cost of such assistance.
- (c) Utilization of DOD resources -
  - (1) General rule - During the immediate aftermath of an incident which may ultimately qualify for assistance under this title or title V of this Act, the Governor of the State in which such incident occurred may request the President to direct the Secretary of Defense to utilize the resources of the Department of Defense for the purpose of performing on public and private lands any emergency work which is made necessary by such incident and which is essential for the preservation of life and property. If the President determines that such work is essential for the preservation of life and property, the President shall grant such request to the extent the President determines practicable. Such emergency work may only be carried out for a period not to exceed 10 days.
  - (2) Rules applicable to debris removal - Any removal of debris and wreckage carried out under this subsection shall be subject to section 5173(b) of this title, relating to unconditional authorization and indemnification for debris removal.
  - (3) Expenditures out of disaster relief funds - The cost of any assistance provided pursuant to this subsection shall be reimbursed out of funds made available to carry out this Act.
  - (4) Federal share - The Federal share of assistance under this subsection shall be not less than 75 percent.
  - (5) Guidelines - Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Amendments of 1988 [enacted Nov. 23, 1988], the President shall issue guidelines for carrying out this subsection. Such guidelines shall consider any likely effect assistance under this subsection will have on the availability of other forms of assistance under this Act.
  - (6) Definitions - For purposes of this section
    - (A) Department of Defense - The term “Department of Defense” has the meaning the term “department” has under section 101 of title 10.
    - (B) Emergency work - The term “emergency work” includes clearance and removal of debris and wreckage and temporary restoration of essential public facilities and services.

## **Sec. 621. Administrative Authority (42 U.S.C. 5197)**

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- (a) In General - For the purpose of carrying out the powers and duties assigned to the Director under this title, the Director may exercise the administrative authorities provided under this section.
- (b) Advisory personnel - The Director may employ not more than 100 part-time or temporary advisory personnel (including not to exceed 25 subjects of the United Kingdom or citizens of Canada) as the Director considers to be necessary in carrying out the provisions of this title.
  - (1) Persons holding other offices or positions under the United States for which they receive compensation, while serving as advisory personnel, shall receive no additional compensation for such service. Other part-time or temporary advisory personnel so employed may serve without compensation or may receive compensation at a rate not to exceed \$180 for each day of service, plus authorized subsistence and travel, as determined by the Director.
- (c) Services of other agency personnel and volunteers - The Director may -
  - (1) use the services of Federal agencies and, with the consent of any State or local government, accept and use the services of State and local agencies;
  - (2) establish and use such regional and other offices as may be necessary; and
  - (3) use such voluntary and uncompensated services by individuals or organizations as may from time to time be needed.
- (d) Gifts - Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Director may accept gifts of supplies, equipment, and facilities and may use or distribute such gifts for emergency preparedness purposes in accordance with the provisions of this title.
- (e) Reimbursement - The Director may reimburse any Federal agency for any of its expenditures or for compensation of its personnel and use or consumption of its materials and facilities under this title to the extent funds are available.
- (f) Printing - The Director may purchase such printing, binding, and blank-book work from public, commercial, or private printing establishments or binderies as the Director considers necessary upon orders placed by the Public Printer or upon waivers issued in accordance with section 504 of title 44.
- (g) Rules and regulations - The Director may prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary and proper to carry out any of the provisions of this title and perform any of the powers and duties provided by this title. The Director may perform any of the powers and duties provided by this title through or with the aid of such officials of the Federal Emergency Management Agency as the Director may designate.
- (h) Failure to expend contributions correctly - When, after reasonable notice and opportunity for hearing to the State or other person involved, the Director finds that there is a failure to expend funds in accordance with the regulations, terms, and conditions established under this subchapter for approved emergency

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preparedness plans, programs, or projects, the Director may notify such State or person that further payments will not be made to the State or person from appropriations under this subchapter (or from funds otherwise available for the purposes of this subchapter for any approved plan, program, or project with respect to which there is such failure to comply) until the Director is satisfied that there will no longer be any such failure.

- (1) When, after reasonable notice and opportunity for hearing to the State or other person involved, the Director finds that there is a failure to expend funds in accordance with the regulations, terms, and conditions established under this title for approved emergency preparedness plans, programs, or projects, the Director may notify such State or person that further payments will not be made to the State or person from appropriations under this title (or from funds otherwise available for the purposes of this title for any approved plan, program, or project with respect to which there is such failure to comply) until the Director is satisfied that there will no longer be any such failure.
- (2) Until so satisfied, the Director shall either withhold the payment of any financial contribution to such State or person or limit payments to those programs or projects with respect to which there is substantial compliance with the regulations, terms, and conditions governing plans, programs, or projects hereunder.

As used in this subsection, the term “person” means the political subdivision of any State or combination or group thereof or any person, corporation, association, or other entity of any nature whatsoever, including instrumentalities of States and political subdivisions.

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