



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**Andy Beshear**  
GOVERNOR

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December 11, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D. C. 20502-0001

Through: Gracia B. Szczech  
Regional Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IV  
3005 Chamblee Tucker Road  
Atlanta, GA 30341

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Safford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), as implemented by 44 C. F. R. § 206.35, I request that you declare an emergency disaster for the Commonwealth of Kentucky in response to a severe weather system that has produced numerous tornadoes. This event began on December 10 and is expected to exit the state today. The system has impacted a significant portion of the Commonwealth. One tornado, which originated in Arkansas and traversed over 200 miles in Kentucky, is being recognized by the National Weather Service to be one of the longest in history.

One tornado struck the City of Mayfield which is reporting major damages to public facilities, businesses, and residences. It is reported that a Graves County factory has collapsed, trapping workers and we believe there are at least 50 fatalities. Debris covering emergency vehicle buildings has hampered search and rescue efforts. In Hopkins County, a train carrying hazardous materials has been derailed by a tornado. Vegetative and construction debris cover a multitude of county, state, and federal routes. At this point, at least 17 Kentucky counties have experienced tornadic activity and debris fields. The event is ongoing.

In response to this event I have issued a State of Emergency Order, effective December 10, 2021. This order has activated the State Emergency Operations Center and the State Emergency

Operations Plan. The order also directed the Kentucky National Guard to provide support and assistance to impacted communities. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is sending heavy equipment and operators to assist with the clearing of emergency routes. The Louisville Jefferson County Metro Government is deploying an Incident Management Team to Mayfield to assist with response efforts.

Kentucky is in need of federal assistance to respond to this event. Power outages are widespread. At this time it is apparent there is a need for emergency generators to power critical facilities. I ask for a Power Assessment Team to identify specific needs and sourcing. Also, the state requests a federal Incident Management Assistance Team be deployed to assist the state with command and control operations. There are no other federal agency efforts or resources involved in response to this emergency.

I thank you for your consideration of this request and look forward to working with our federal partners to assist our impacted Kentucky communities and citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andy Beshear". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andy" and the last name "Beshear" clearly distinguishable.

Andy Beshear  
Governor