



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Executive Department

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE NUMBER EIGHT (2024)

#### **Deploying Targeted Resources in Response to the Emergency Management Assistance Compact Requests from the State of Florida to Address Anticipated Consequences of Hurricane Milton**

##### **Importance of the Issue**

Florida is currently recovering from the devastation suffered in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. Within two weeks of that Declared Major Disaster, a catastrophic major hurricane is bearing down on the western coast of Florida. In anticipation of Hurricane Milton making landfall on or about October 10, 2024, on October 8, 2024, I verbally authorized the deployment of the Virginia National Guard in a state active-duty status under the Commonwealth's Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) with Florida to help prepare for and respond to Milton's effects. Our response will focus on preserving life, preventing destruction of public and private property, and protecting the environment.

The situation in Florida remains precarious following the September 28, 2024, Major Disaster declaration made by President Biden following the destruction of Hurricane Helene. In preparation for Hurricane Milton's landfall, President Biden declared a federal emergency in the State of Florida beginning on October 5, 2024. Governor DeSantis declared a Florida State of Emergency for 51 counties in Executive Order 24-214 as amended by 24-215.

Because of the resource intensive nature of the emergency response, the degradation of the State of Florida's resources following Hurricane Helene, and the cost to human life and property during major storms, Virginia will do its part to assist the State of Florida's efforts with the coordinated deployment of Virginia National Guard soldiers to assist in key aspects of their mission.

##### **Directive**

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Article V of the Constitution of Virginia and by §§ 44-75.1, 44-146.17(A), 44-146.28(C), and 44-146.28:1 of the *Code of Virginia*, as the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth, and subject always to my continuing and ultimate authority and responsibility to act in such matters, I hereby order the following actions to marshal all public resources and appropriate preparedness, response, and recovery measures in support of the State of Florida:

1. Continued activation of the Virginia Emergency Operations Center and the Virginia Emergency Support Team, as directed by the State Coordinator of Emergency Management, to coordinate the provision of assistance to the State of Florida. These entities are currently activated to respond to the effects of Hurricane Helene in the Commonwealth.
2. Mobilization of not more than 300 Virginia National Guard Soldiers, Airmen, and Virginia Defense Force members including supporting personnel in state active-duty status for a duration of not more than 45 days for the purpose of supporting the State of Florida's requests for assistance. The following conditions apply to the activation and deployment of the Virginia National Guard:
  - a. In all instances, members of the Virginia National Guard shall remain subject to military command as prescribed by § 44-78.1 of the *Code of Virginia* and are not subject to the civilian authorities of county or municipal governments. This shall not prohibit working in close cooperation with members of other Federal, State or Local authorities or receiving guidance from them in the performance of their duties.
  - b. The Virginia National Guard concept of operations will include the personnel emergency response package(s) agreed upon pursuant to the requests of the State of Florida and the offers of the Commonwealth of Virginia under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, including but not limited to, a Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team, elements of a horizontal engineer company, a truck company, and a general purpose company. Supplies and equipment to be used by that personnel emergency response package will be specified in the agreements to accept the Commonwealth's offer(s) of support under the Compact.
  - c. Authorization of a maximum of \$14,000,000.00 in state sum sufficient funds in support of EMAC requests from the State of Florida. This includes a sufficient number of enabling personnel in Virginia to support that response. These costs should ultimately be borne by the State of Florida through the EMAC process.

### **Effective Date**

This Executive Directive shall be effective October 9, 2024, and shall remain in full force and in effect until November 23, 2024, unless sooner amended or rescinded by further directive or authorization. Termination of authority to conduct this mission does not terminate any federal-type benefits granted or to be granted due to injury or death as a result of service under this authority.

Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this 10th day of October 2024.



*Glenn Youngkin*  
Glenn Youngkin, Governor

Attest:

*Kelly Gee*  
Kelly Gee, Secretary of the Commonwealth