

# Hurricane Maria

## Puerto Rico Disaster Relief

TELL ELECTED OFFICIALS THAT THEY MUST DO MORE FOR PUERTO RICO NOW:

*What FEMA and a small military presence are doing now isn't enough for 3.4 million people on an island without access to food, water, and safe shelter. It is a drop in the bucket compared to the need.*

*Please CALL and send an email similar to the ones below to government officials who can do so much more to help the people of Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. Please feel free to share the link in other groups and encourage everyone to write. It only takes a minute.*

*We need our leadership to stay focussed on increasing relief efforts. The comparison to past relief efforts make the deficit clear:*

*Haiti Magnitude 7 Earthquake (Day 10): A foreign country on the Island next to Puerto Rico (Source: MSNBC)*

- 33 Military Ships
- 300 military Helicopters
- 22k Troops

*Puerto Rico 40 mile wide Tornado Force Category 5 Hurricane (Day 10): Part of the US with 3.4M Citizens: (Source: MSNBC)*

- 26 Military Ships
- 25 Federal Military Helicopters
- 5k troops

*Please Call your elected officials to continue putting pressure on them to increase efforts.*

**Link to this document:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UgCwhVCU-aL3GjUc2c0WDBHE97dU4M7BjgmkUzjuPoU/edit?usp=sharing>

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## Governor

Find your state Governor here: <https://www.usa.gov/state-governor>

“The devastation is vast”, Puerto Rico Governor Ricardo Rosello said in a statement on Monday 9/26/17. “Make no mistake -- this is a humanitarian disaster involving 3.4 million U.S. Citizens.” Hurricane Maria has left 3.4 million Americans in Puerto Rico and 105k more in the US. Virgin Islands without water, food, and fuel for more than a week.

Our state must respond by joining New York in sending every available resource at our disposal to bring emergency relief services, especially to Puerto Rico, as soon as possible. Please send the national guard with supplies to serve the hardest hit areas that are not yet being served, especially the western and central parts of Puerto Rico and areas affected by the dam collapse.

Do not delay, American lives are at stake, and we can not afford even a single death from dehydration or starvation. Please act immediately.

## Member of Congress

Find your 3 Members of Congress here: <https://www.contactingcongress.org/>

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It is imperative that you pressure both Congress and the President to increase relief efforts to the Caribbean immediately and:

- **Deploy Naval hospital ships to the Islands with relief and emergency supplies.**
  - USNS Comfort received orders on 9/27 to deploy to Puerto Rico.
  - USNS Mercy must also be deployed to the other side of the Island to prevent a cholera outbreak.
  - Smaller ships must deploy to the entire perimeter of the island to deliver relief.
  - Begin emergency water evacuations.
- **Deploy the Air force to airdrop supplies and evacuate areas that are not accessible.**
- **Deploy the Army Corp of Engineers and a sizeable workforce to secure infrastructure (Water, Power, Communications) and create/reinforce safe hospitals/shelters .**
  - On 9/27, the 101st were loading up and sending "1,000 soldiers who specialize in distribution of goods in hostile environments". This is insufficient to get aid to 3.4M Americans.
  - There has been no deployments to secure infrastructure.

- **Begin emergency evacuations** for those who have family/friends on the mainland that they can stay with so that the number of those in need of immediate relief on the Island will be reduced until the Island is stable enough for them to return.
- **Immediately lift all restrictions from the Jones Act** that may inhibit any relief efforts that require relief supplies and aid come from US ships. (The Merchant Marine Act of 1920, also known as the Jones Act: Public law 66–261 enacted in 1920)
  - Initially the president refused stating that there is “the shipping industry that don’t want the Jones Act lifted”. On 9/28 Jones act restrictions were temporarily put on hold. This isn’t enough, it needs to be abolished!
- **Immediately put all debt for the Government and individuals in forbearance** for no less than 5 years so that the Islands can rebuild.
- **Develop a long range reconstruction plan** that empowers families, businesses, and local government to rebuild homes and infrastructure over the next 5 years.

Do not delay, 3.5 million American lives across the Caribbean are at stake, and we can not afford even a single death from dehydration, starvation, or lack of shelter. You must act immediately.

## President

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>

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It is imperative that you pressure both Congress and sign executive orders to increase relief efforts to the Caribbean immediately and:

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## Secretary of the Navy

[secnavpa.fct@navy.mil](mailto:secnavpa.fct@navy.mil)

RICHARD V. SPENCER

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It is imperative that you provide military relief to the Caribbean immediately and:

- Deploy Naval hospital ships to the Islands with relief and emergency supplies.
  - USNS Comfort received orders on 9/27 to deploy to Puerto Rico.

- USNS Mercy must also be deployed to the other side of the Island to prevent a cholera outbreak.
- Deploy smaller naval vessels to provide relief supplies and aid along the entire coast of the island.
- Begin emergency water evacuations for those who have family/friends on the mainland that they can stay with so that the number of those in need of immediate relief on the Island will be reduced until the Island is stable enough for them to return.

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## Secretary of the Air Force

<http://www.af.mil/Contact-Us/>

Dr. Heather Wilson

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It is imperative that you provide military relief to the Caribbean immediately and:

- Deploy the Air force to airdrop supplies to areas that are not accessible.
- Deploy Helicopter groups to rescue those in areas that are not accessible for immediate evacuation.

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## Acting Secretary of the Army

<https://www.army.mil/contact>

Ryan D. McCarthy

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It is imperative that you provide military relief to the Caribbean immediately and:

- Deploy army vehicles and fuel reserves to deliver relief supplies to the areas that are hardest to access.
- Deploy the Army Corp of Engineers and a sizeable workforce to secure infrastructure (Water, Power, Communications) and create/reinforce safe hospitals/shelters .
- Begin emergency evacuations for those who have family/friends on the mainland that they can stay with so that the number of those in need of immediate relief on the Island will be reduced until the Island is stable enough for them to return.

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## Secretary of Defense

Jim Mattis

Secretary of Defense

1000 Defense Pentagon

Washington, DC 20301-1000

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