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GSA Office of Governmentwide Policy
SPE Memo SPE-2018-04

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL GSA CONTRACTING ACTIVITIES AND HEADS OF CONTRACTING ACTIVITY

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SUBJECT: Relief Efforts for Hurricane Florence

1. Purpose.

Hurricane Florence has been declared an emergency by the President (see EM-3400, EM-3401, and EM-3403 on the [FEMA Disaster Declarations](#) webpage). GSA anticipates being part of the response operation. Many GSA contracting officers may be called on to aid in response and/or recovery efforts. The following information is provided to assist the Heads of Contracting Activities (HCAs) and contracting officers actively responding in providing relief efforts to Hurricane Florence.

2. Contract and Lease Flexibilities.

In accordance with GSA's FAR Class Deviation - Exercise of Special Emergency Procurement Authorities (see [Acquisition Letter MV-17-03](#)), the emergency acquisition flexibilities listed in [FAR Subpart 18.2](#) are available for use along with the existing acquisition flexibilities enumerated in [FAR Subpart 18.1](#). This memorandum focuses on the flexibilities in [FAR Subpart 18.2](#), but as a reminder, the flexibilities in [FAR Subpart 18.1](#) apply to any emergency situation, both with and without a major disaster or emergency declaration. Further information on emergency acquisition is now available on the [Acquisition Portal Emergency Acquisitions Website](#).

For direct purposes of the response to Hurricane Florence:

- The micropurchase threshold is increased to \$20,000 for any contract to be awarded and performed, or purchase to be made in support of the designated areas. The Davis-Bacon and Service Contract Act (SCA) thresholds are not changed.

- The simplified acquisition threshold (SAT) is increased to \$750,000, or \$13,000,000 for commercial items, for any contract to be awarded and performed, or purchased in support of the designated areas, including the acquisition of leasehold interests in real property.
- The additional flexibilities of FAR Subpart 18.2 cannot be used for any other acquisition, including depot back-fills. The threshold increases are specific only to support the designated areas. We expect the designated areas to be revised as the storm moves. As the geographic area of the Presidential declaration is revised (see EM-3400, EM-3401, and EM-3403 on the FEMA Disaster Declarations webpage), the geographic area applicable to the threshold increases in this memorandum is simultaneously revised without the need for a revision to this memorandum.

The threshold increases will remain in effect until January 31, 2019, unless otherwise rescinded, modified or extended.

3. FPDS Reporting.

GSA added a new National Interest Action (NIA) to the NIA field in FPDS as a means of tracking acquisition costs of the multiple Federal agencies involved in Hurricane Florence, an incident of great national interest. This new NIA Code shall be used strictly for reporting purposes related to Hurricane Florence and involves the exercise of the emergency authorities identified in FAR Subpart 18.2, Emergency Acquisition Flexibilities. FPDS system details for this NIA follow:

- NIA Code: H18F
- NIA Description: Hurricane Florence 2018
- Start Date: 09/13/2018

If you have any FPDS system questions or problems, please contact our supporting Federal Service Desk at <https://www.fsd.gov>.

4. Additional Guidance.

SPE Memorandum 2017-08-29 - Relief Efforts for Hurricane Harvey provides additional guidance for emergency acquisitions in regard to providing adequate staffing, procurement requirements, and existing procurement vehicles available.

U.S. Small Business Administration Memo titled "Emergency Procedures for Federal Agency Senior Acquisition Executives and Small Business Directors During Declared Disasters" provides additional guidance and resources for efficiently including small business concerns to successfully and quickly respond to requirements in support of relief efforts.

5. Point of Contact.

Any questions regarding this memo should be directed to Kevin Funk, General Services Acquisition Policy Division, at (202) 357-5805, or via email to kevin.funk@gsa.gov.

6. Additional Resources.

- [Acquisition Portal Emergency Acquisitions Website](#)
- [Office of Federal Procurement Policy \(OFPP\) Emergency Acquisition Guidance](#)
- [GSA Emergency Response Website](#)
- [Disaster Declarations \(FEMA\)](#)
- [Storm Tracking \(NOAA - National Hurricane Center\)](#)