

[Contact the President](#)

I am writing to urge you to reverse cuts to the National Weather Service, NOAA, and FEMA.

At least 120 people have perished in the massive flooding in Texas, and many more are still missing. The tragedy in Texas is the result of the dark marriage between climate denial as policy and the evisceration of the government agencies that provide accurate forecasts, weather alerts, and coordinated communication to warn people.

In an interview late last month, Elbert “Joe” Friday, Jr., a former director of the National Weather Service, who began at NWS in the Reagan era and was fired as director by Bill Clinton, discussed the impact of the cuts to NWS staffing under your administration.

In the interview, he said, “Now, I'm not suggesting that the delay in any of the warnings or forecasts that have occurred already has been a result of short staffing. I'm not suggesting that any of the deaths – and we've had a lot of deaths from tornadoes – are caused by short staffing, but eventually there will be situations that develop where the staff is so stressed that they won't be able to do a good job, they won't be able to get the information out to the emergency management community in time.”

Eventually is NOW. The San Antonio office of the National Weather Service was missing a coordination meteorologist to work directly with emergency managers when the Guadalupe River flooded.

By Saturday, Texas officials were already pointing fingers at you because you gutted the operating budget of NWS.

Your Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, who oversees NOAA, testified to Congress in June that the cuts wouldn't be a problem because “we are transforming how we track storms and forecast weather with cutting-edge technology. Under no circumstances am I going to let public safety or public forecasting be touched.” Apparently the “cutting edge technology” hasn't arrived yet.

And now presumably FEMA will be called upon to help pick up the pieces of shattered lives in Texas - an agency that you have said repeatedly that you want to abolish. But Kristi Noem, who has no emergency management experience, has hampered efforts by requiring her personal sign-off on operations costing over \$100,000. This delayed the arrival of search and rescue teams.

You are allowed to change your mind. Americans are dying and this is just the beginning of the carnage. Wash your hands of this Project 2025 initiative.