



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JML 24-72

***STATE OF EMERGENCY
SEVERE STORMS AND TORNADOES – MAY 14-17, 2024***

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721, et seq., confers upon the Governor of the State of Louisiana emergency powers to deal with emergencies and disasters, including those caused by fire, flood, earthquake or other natural or manmade causes, in order to ensure that preparations of this State will be adequate to deal with such emergencies or disasters and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, when the Governor determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, R.S. 29:724(B)(1) empowers him to declare a state of emergency by executive order or proclamation, or both;

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service (“NWS”) issued multiple warnings from May 13, 2024 through May 17, 2024 in anticipation of several lines of severe thunderstorms travelling through the State threatening severe straight-line winds, flooding, hail, and possible tornadoes;

WHEREAS, the NWS has confirmed that a tornado struck the parish of Pointe Coupee on May 13-14, 2024, causing power outages of greater than 50% parish-wide, causing damage to at least 14 homes and destroying one mobile home. This required the parish to declare a state of emergency and execute its emergency response plans;

WHEREAS, the NWS has also confirmed that a tornado struck the parish of West Baton Rouge on May 13-14, 2024, causing damage to several homes and causing at least two fatalities. This required the parish to declare a state of emergency and execute its emergency response plans;

WHEREAS, the NWS has also confirmed that a tornado struck the parish of St. Martin on May 13-14, 2024, causing damage to at least nine homes, 19 mobile homes, four businesses and one public building, injuring nine people and causing one fatality. It is estimated that there is

150,000 cubic yards of vegetative debris in the Henderson Area, which does not include other areas requiring debris removal. This required the parish to declare a state of emergency and execute its emergency response plans;

WHEREAS, the NWS has also confirmed that a tornado struck the parish of Iberville on May 13-14, 2024, causing damage to one home, four mobile homes, and two public buildings. This required the parish to declare a state of emergency and execute its emergency response plans;

WHEREAS, the NWS has also confirmed that a tornado struck the parish of St. James on May 17, 2024, causing power outages of greater than 9% in the community near Convent, Louisiana and damaging 47 homes. This required the parish to declare a state of emergency and execute its emergency response plans;

WHEREAS, numerous other parishes have issued emergency declarations, and executed their emergency response plans, and may require assistance from the State of Louisiana to provide resources to protect the life, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Louisiana.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JEFF LANDRY, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, order and direct as follows:

Section 1: Pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, a state of emergency is hereby declared to exist as a result of the emergency conditions that currently threaten the lives, safety, and property of the citizens in Louisiana. State resources will be utilized to provide the following assistance in the parishes indicated:

- A. **Debris Removal Assistance:** The State will provide assistance in the form of 75% of costs related to debris removal that are incurred within the first ten (10) days of debris operations or a validly issued Notice to Proceed to a debris contractor for the following parishes: ***St. Martin, Iberville, West Baton Rouge, Point Coupee and St. James.***
- B. **Shelter Assistance:** The State will provide assistance in the form of 75% of costs related to sheltering that are incurred within the first seven (7) days from the Incident Date for the parish of ***St. James.***

C. Emergency Protective Measures: The State will provide assistance in the form of 75% of costs attributable to emergency protective measures (limited to overtime pay) related to this event that are incurred on the Incident Date for the following parishes: ***St. Martin, Iberville; West Baton Rouge, Point Coupee and St. James.***

Section 2: The State will review resource requests submitted through WebEOC from all parishes, and will allocate resources as necessary to assist parishes in their recovery efforts. As incident impacts and parish resource requests are reviewed and validated, this section will be amended to identify those parishes authorized to receive State resources.

Section 3: The Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) is hereby authorized to undertake any activity authorized by law that he deems appropriate in response to this declaration.

Section 4: Pursuant to R.S. 29:732, during a declared state of emergency, the prices charged or value received for goods and services sold within the designated emergency area may not exceed the prices ordinarily charged for comparable goods and services in the same market area at or immediately before the time of the state of emergency, unless the price by the seller is attributable to fluctuations in applicable commodity markets, fluctuations in applicable regional or national market trends, or to reasonable expenses and charges and attendant business risk incurred in procuring or selling the goods or services during the state of emergency.

Section 5: Pursuant to R.S. 29:724(D)(1), the Louisiana Procurement Code (R.S. 39:1551. et seq.) and Louisiana Public Bid Law (R.S. 38:2211, et seq.) and their corresponding rules and regulations are hereby suspended for the purpose of the procurement of any good or services necessary to respond to this emergency by the following parishes: ***St. Martin, Iberville, West Baton Rouge, Point Coupee and St. James***, including emergency contracts, cooperative endeavor agreements, and any other emergency amendments to existing contracts.

Section 6: All departments, commissions, boards, agencies and officers of the State, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions the State may take in response to this event.

Section 7: This Order is effective upon signature and shall continue in effect from Tuesday, May 14, 2024 until Thursday, June 13, 2024, unless amended, modified, terminated, or rescinded earlier by the Governor, or terminated by operation of law.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 20th day of May, 2024.



JEFF LANDRY
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE



Nancy Landry
SECRETARY OF STATE