



# THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## EXECUTIVE ORDER

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BY THE GOVERNOR:

### STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR TORNADOES AND SEVERE STORMS

- WHEREAS:** The National Weather Service predicts that a severe thunderstorm system will move into western Georgia this evening, March 15, 2025, through the afternoon of March 16, 2025; and
- WHEREAS:** The Storm Prediction Center upgraded much of North and West Georgia to an Enhanced Risk level due to the threat of damaging wind gusts and tornadoes; and
- WHEREAS:** These thunderstorm wind gusts have the potential to reach up to 75 miles per hour and bring down trees and powerlines; and
- WHEREAS:** This severe weather event is predicted to produce two to three inches of rainfall, damaging wind gusts, tornadoes, large hail, and isolated flash flooding; and
- WHEREAS:** Assistance from the State of Georgia is necessary to provide for the public's safety and mitigate potential consequences of this severe weather system; and
- WHEREAS:** The Governor is vested with the emergency powers cited herein as the Chief Executive of this State; and
- WHEREAS:** As Chief Executive, the Governor is tasked with protecting the citizens of this State, including during a state of emergency; and
- WHEREAS:** Code Section 38-3-51 vests the Governor with the authority to bring emergency situations under control by issuing orders, rules, and regulations to protect the safety and welfare of the public; and
- WHEREAS:** Code Section 38-3-28 provides that "[a]ll orders, rules, and regulations promulgated by the Governor" have the force and effect of law; and
- WHEREAS:** In consultation with state emergency preparedness officials, I have determined that the following actions are necessary and appropriate to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Georgia's residents and visitors.

**NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO CODE SECTION 38-3-51, AND THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY**

**ORDERED:** That a State of Emergency exists in the State of Georgia due to the potential of severe weather affecting the State on March 15, 2025, through March 16, 2025.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** That all resources of the State of Georgia be made available to assist in preparation, response, and recovery activities throughout the affected areas, and the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency shall activate the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** That state agencies shall coordinate all public and emergency information, activities, releases, and response efforts related to this emergency with the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** That the Georgia Department of Transportation and Georgia Department of Public Safety shall take all necessary action to ensure the expeditious movement of utility vehicles, equipment, and personnel through the State to eliminate power outages.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** That state agencies shall provide sufficient personnel required for the staffing of the Georgia State Operations Center or other command, control, and coordination points as may be designated by the Director of the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency and shall provide such personnel, vehicles, equipment, and other resources needed to protect life and property and to ensure continuation, restoration, and recovery of essential public services.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** Pursuant to Code Section 10-1-393.4, price gouging related to goods and services necessary for preparation, response, and recovery activities for this State of Emergency, including motor and diesel fuel, would be detrimental to the social and economic welfare of the citizens of this State and is therefore prohibited.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** That if one or more of the provisions contained in this Order shall be held to be invalid, in violation of the Georgia Constitution, in violation of Georgia law, or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, violation, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provisions of this Order, but, in such case, this Order shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been contained within the Order.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** That no provision of this Order shall limit, infringe, suspend, or supplant any judicial order, judgment, or decree issued pursuant to the laws or constitution of this State or the laws or constitution of the United States, nor shall any person use any provision this Order as a defense to an action in violation of a judicial order, judgment, or decree by any court created pursuant to the laws or constitution of this State or the laws or constitution of the United States.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** The Office of the Governor may continue to issue guidance on the scope of this Order as needed through communication media, including social media, without need for further Executive Orders.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** All provisions of the Order shall become effective upon signature and shall be valid for a period of three (3) days, expiring Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 11:59 P.M. unless this State of Emergency is renewed by the Governor.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** That this Order shall be effective upon signature.

This 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. P. L.", is positioned above a horizontal line.

**GOVERNOR**