



THE STATE OF GEORGIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

BY THE GOVERNOR:

STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR SPALDING COUNTY WATER SUPPLY

- WHEREAS:** On January 30, 2026, a significant release of fuel occurred at or near the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, resulting in the discharge of petroleum contaminants into the Flint River; and
- WHEREAS:** The Flint River serves as the primary source of drinking water for the residents of Spalding County; and
- WHEREAS:** Due to the potential contamination from the discharge, there is a potential shortage of safe drinking water in Spalding County; and
- WHEREAS:** The potential contamination of Spalding County's water supply requires urgent action to prevent illness, ensure access to safe water, and mitigate further environmental damage; and
- WHEREAS:** The threat of severe winter weather may complicate the delivery of safe drinking water and require additional state resources to ensure availability; and
- WHEREAS:** Assistance from the State of Georgia is necessary to provide for the public's health and safety; and
- WHEREAS:** The Governor is vested with the emergency powers cited herein as the Chief Executive of this State; 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: The Federal Motor Carrier Safety regulations, 49 C.F.R. § 395, et seq., limit the hours of operators of commercial motor vehicles may drive; and

WHEREAS: 49 C.F.R. 390.23 allows the Governor of a State to suspend these rules and regulations for up to fourteen (14) days if the Governor determines that an emergency condition exists; and

WHEREAS: On January 30, 2026, I declared a State of Emergency for Winter Weather in the State of Georgia until February 6, 2026, by issuing Executive Order 01.30.26.01; and

WHEREAS: This Order shall create a coexisting state of emergency in the State of Georgia with the State of Emergency for Winter Weather taking place in the State of Georgia described in the immediately preceding paragraphs; and

WHEREAS: The responses by the State to this State of Emergency and the State of Emergency for Winter Weather taking place in the State of Georgia should all proceed simultaneously, without one impeding the other; 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 SECTIONS 38-3-28 AND 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 Spalding County due to the potential water supply contamination caused by a fuel release in the Flint River.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That weight, height, and length for any vehicle traveling through the State of Georgia for the purposes of providing relief related to this State of Emergency, which traverses roadways maintained by the State of Georgia, excluding interstates, shall not exceed the following:

- A. A maximum gross vehicle weight for vehicles equipped with five (5) weight-bearing axles, with an outer bridge span of not less than fifty-one (51) feet, shall not exceed a gross vehicle weight of ninety-five (95) thousand pounds, a maximum

width of ten (10) feet, and an overall length of one hundred (100) feet. Continuous travel is authorized with the proper escorts.

- B. If the width of said vehicle exceeds eight (8) feet six (6) inches and is traveling after daylight, defined as thirty (30) minutes before sunset to thirty (30) minutes after sunrise, the transporter is required to have a vehicle front and a rear escort/amber light when traveling on a two-lane roadway and a vehicle rear escort when traveling on a four-lane highway. Transporters are responsible for ensuring that they have proper oversize signs, markings, flags, and escorts as defined in the Georgia Department of Transportation Rules and Regulations.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED:

That commercial vehicles operating outside the normal weight, height, and length restrictions under the authority of this State of Emergency shall be issued permits by the Georgia Department of Public Safety. Said vehicles shall be subject to any special conditions the Georgia Department of Public Safety may list on applicable permits. Nothing in this Executive Order shall be construed to allow any vehicle to exceed weight limits posted for bridges and like structures, nor shall anything in this Executive Order be construed to relieve compliance with restrictions other than those specified in this Order or from any statute, rule, order, or other legal requirement not specifically waived herein.

Oversize permits may be issued by the Georgia Department of Public Safety, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division, during normal business hours, Monday through Friday by calling 404-624-7700 or through the Georgia Permitting and Routing Optimization System online portal at <https://www.gaprospermits.com/>.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED:

That the federal rules and regulations limiting hours that operators of commercial vehicles may drive are suspended to ensure the uninterrupted supply of goods and services necessary to respond to this State of Emergency, including petroleum products. This declared emergency justifies a suspension of Part 395 (driver's hours of service) of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The suspension will remain in effect for fourteen (14) days or until the emergency condition ceases to exist, whichever is less. Nothing herein will be construed as an exemption from the Commercial Driver's License requirements in 49 C.F.R. § 383 and the financial

requirements in 49 C.F.R. § 387 or to require or allow an ill or fatigued driver to operate a motor vehicle. A driver who notifies a motor vehicle carrier that he or she needs immediate rest will be given at least ten (10) consecutive hours off-duty before being required to return to service.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: To expedite the transportation of safe drinking water into and throughout the affected areas, all water haulers and tankers may bypass the Georgia Department of Public Safety, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division, weigh stations and monitoring inspection stations.

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, but not limited to, bottled water or supplies for water testing or water purification, would be detrimental to the social and economic welfare of the citizens of this State and is therefore prohibited.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That the State of Emergency declared by this Order shall coexist with the State of Emergency for Winter Weather declared by Executive Order 01.30.26.01. The existence or termination of one shall not impinge the others.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That any orders derivative of or appurtenant to this Order addressing this State of Emergency shall not infringe, overturn, or in any way amend any orders that have been issued for the purpose of responding to the State of Emergency for Winter Weather declared by Executive Order 01.30.26.01.

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: That this Order does not suspend operation of any state or federal law or regulation, except as specifically described herein.

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

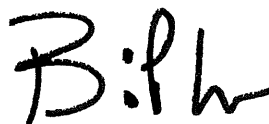
IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: All provisions of the Order shall become effective upon signature and shall be valid for a period of seven (7) days, expiring Thursday, February 6, 2026, 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 30th day of January 2026.



GOVERNOR