



THE STATE OF GEORGIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

BY THE GOVERNOR:

DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR GEORGIA WILDFIRE RECOVERY

- WHEREAS:** On April 22, 2026, I issued Executive Order No. 04.22.26.01, declaring a State of Emergency for Georgia Wildfires in 91 counties in South Georgia that were at high risk for wildfires; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Emergency for Georgia Wildfires adopted and incorporated an administrative order from the Georgia Forestry Commission implementing a temporary burn ban in the counties covered by the declaration; and
- WHEREAS:** On May 5, 2026, I issued Executive Order No. 05.05.26.01, which lifted the State of Emergency for Georgia Wildfires in all counties except for Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Berrien, Brantley, Camden, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Echols, Glynn, Jeff Davis, Lanier, Lowndes, Pierce, Ware, and Wayne counties; and
- WHEREAS:** On May 12, 2026, I issued Executive Order No. 05.12.26.01, which lifted the temporary burn ban in all counties, among other provisions; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Emergency for Georgia Wildfires expired Friday, May 22, 2026, at 11:59 P.M.; and
- WHEREAS:** Additional assistance from the State is necessary to support recovery efforts after these unprecedented wildfires and harvest the remaining salvageable timber while it is still economically feasible; 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 declaring a state of emergency “[i]n the event of [an] actual or impending emergency or disaster of natural or human origin . . . within or affecting this [S]tate” under Code Section 38-3-51(a); and

WHEREAS: Code Section 38-3-51(c) 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 continued strength of Georgia’s economy and provide for 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 the following counties due to the extensive damage caused by wildfires and continued recovery efforts: Appling, Atkinson, Bacon, Berrien, Brantley, Camden, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Echols, Glynn, Jeff Davis, Lanier, Lowndes, Pierce, Ware, and Wayne counties.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That all resources of the State of Georgia be made available to assist in recovery activities throughout the State.

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 weight, height, and length for any vehicle traveling through the State of Georgia for purposes 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, during normal business hours, Monday through Friday by calling 844-837-5500 or through the Georgia Permitting and Routing Optimization System online portal at <https://www.gaprospermits.com/>.

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 provision 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 of 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: All provisions of the Order shall be effective upon signature and shall be valid for a period of thirty (30) days, expiring Sunday, July 12, 2026, at 11:59 P.M. unless this State of Emergency is renewed by the Governor.

This 12th day of June 2026.



GOVERNOR