



THE STATE OF GEORGIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

BY THE GOVERNOR:

WHEREAS: The Georgia Forestry Commission has reported that wildfires in Southeast Georgia and in particular, Bacon, Clinch, Coffee and Long Counties, have resulted in the loss of tens of thousands of acres of commercial timber, threatened numerous communities, forced the closure of state highways and community schools, and required the evacuation of residents; and

WHEREAS: The short-term and long-term weather forecasts are for continued patterns of dryness and strong winds which will promote the creation of new wildfires and constrain the ability of the firefighters to contain the existing fires; and

WHEREAS: Additional State assistance is necessary to protect the public health, preserve the safety of the public, keep property damage to a minimum and support the firefighters and public safety personnel who are responding to this continuing threat to communities in the path of these growing wildfires.

NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO 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: Bacon, Clinch, Coffee and Long.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED: That to facilitate the containment of these wildfires the Georgia Forestry Commission continue to take necessary action to ensure the expeditious containment, control and extinguishment of these fires.

IT IS FURTHER

ORDERED:

That all resources of the State of Georgia be made available to assist in the response and recovery activities associated with the Southeast Georgia Wildfires and that the Georgia Emergency Management Agency activate the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan.

This 25th day of March, 2011 at 4 ~~AM~~ / PM.

Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR