



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JML 24-54

***STATE OF EMERGENCY - SEVERE STORMS AND TORNADOES –
APRIL 10, 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 on April 10, 2024, in anticipation of a line of thunderstorms threatening severe straight-line winds, flooding, and possible tornadoes;

WHEREAS, the NWS has confirmed that a tornado struck the city of Slidell in St. Tammany parish, causing power outages of greater than 50% in that municipality on April 10, 2024 (“Incident Date”), damaging or destroying at least 337 homes, 6 apartment units, 27 businesses, and 2 public buildings;

WHEREAS, the NWS has confirmed that a tornado struck the parish of West Feliciana, causing power outages of greater than 80% parish-wide on the Incident Date, requiring the parish to declare a state of emergency and execute its emergency response plans;

WHEREAS, the NWS has confirmed that a tornado struck the parish of Pointe Coupee, causing power outages of greater than 50% parish-wide on the Incident Date, requiring the parish to declare a state of emergency and execute its emergency response plans;

WHEREAS, the NWS has confirmed that a tornado struck the parish of St. Landry, causing power outages of greater than 60% parish-wide on the Incident Date, requiring the parish to declare a state of emergency and execute its emergency response plans; and

WHEREAS, numerous other parishes have issued emergency declarations, are executing 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: *Pointe Coupee, West Feliciana, St. Landry, and St. Tammany (within the jurisdiction of the city of Slidell).*
- 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 following parish(es): *St. Tammany (within the jurisdiction of the city of Slidell).*
- 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 parish(es): *Pointe Coupee, West Feliciana, St. Landry, and St. Tammany (within the jurisdiction of the city of Slidell).*

Section 2: The State will review resource requests submitted through WebEOC from all parishes, and may allocate resources as necessary to assist parishes in their recovery efforts. As incident impacts and parish resource requests are reviewed and validated, this section may 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: *Pointe Coupee, West Feliciana, St. Landry, and St. Tammany (within the jurisdiction of the city of Slidell)*, 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 6: This Order is effective upon signature and shall continue in effect from Tuesday, April 16, 2024 until Thursday, May 16, 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 16th day of April, 2024.



JEFF LANDRY
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**ATTEST BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE**

Nancy Landry
SECRETARY OF STATE