



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION NO. 17 JBE 2016

STATE OF EMERGENCY – SEVERE WEATHER AND TORNADOES

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. 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, La. R.S. 29:724(B)(1) empowers the Governor to declare a state of emergency by executive order or proclamation, or both;

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service issued alerts including special weather statements, tornado watches, flood warnings, and flash flood warnings for much of southern Louisiana;

WHEREAS, a violent storm system, covering much of southern Louisiana, moved through the area bringing strong winds, heavy rain, and several tornadoes which caused severe damage, including multiple fatalities, dozens of injuries, and over a hundred destroyed homes; and

WHEREAS, the parishes of Assumption, Iberville, Point Coupee, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, and Washington have declared, or are in the process of declaring, states of emergency in order to assist residents in areas damaged by the tornadoes and severe weather.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JOHN BEL EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: Pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721 *et seq.*, a state of emergency is hereby declared to exist in the parishes of Ascension, Assumption, Iberville, Livingston, Point Coupee, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, and Washington caused by this event, and the effects of which continue to threaten the lives and property of the citizens of the State.

SECTION 2: The Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness is hereby authorized to undertake any activity authorized by law which he deems appropriate in response to this declaration.

SECTION 3: 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 the effects of this severe weather event.

SECTION 4: This order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect from February 23, 2016 until March 23, 2016 unless terminated sooner.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the city of Baton Rouge, on this 23th day of February, 2016.

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**ATTEST BY
THE GOVERNOR**

SECRETARY OF STATE