

State of Louisiana

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION NUMBER 4 JBE 2019

STATE OF EMERGENCY – SEVERE WEATHER AND RIVER FLOODING

- 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,** beginning on December 26, 2018 and continuing through January 2019, severe weather and rainfall in the State and north of the State have caused flooding and river gauges throughout Louisiana to meet or are expected to meet the flood stages within the next few days;
- WHEREAS,** excessive rainfall is predicted later in the week that may further exacerbate flash flooding and river flooding;
- WHEREAS,** many parishes need to take protective measures to help mitigate possible flooding; and
- WHEREAS,** eight parishes have declared an emergency including Beauregard, Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, Catahoula, Rapides, St. Tammany and Washington.

NOW THEREFORE I, JOHN BEL EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and 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, R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, a state emergency is declared to exist in the State of Louisiana as a result of river flooding and threat of imminent additional flooding which has created emergency conditions that 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 necessary and 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 Wednesday, January 9, 2019 through Thursday, February 7, 2019, 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 9th day of January, 2019.

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY
OF STATE**

SECRETARY OF STATE