



## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION NUMBER 71 JBE 2021

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### ***STATE OF EMERGENCY – SEVERE WEATHER***

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**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 him to declare a state of emergency by executive order or proclamation, or both;

**WHEREAS,** starting on Monday, April 12, 2021, a weather system entered Louisiana which threatened potential heavy rains, flash flooding, and damaging wind gusts of up to 60 miles per hour across most of Louisiana through Thursday, April 15, 2021, and a risk of excessive rainfall on Friday, April 16, 2021;

**WHEREAS,** parts of Louisiana are already experiencing power outages and boil water advisories as a result of severe weather that struck the State earlier this week, and areas with saturated soil will experience a heightened risk of flash flooding; and

**WHEREAS,** the State anticipates that parishes will declare states of emergency, and assistance may be needed to parishes in their response to this developing threat.

**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 State of Louisiana as a result of the imminent threat of 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 (GOHSEP) 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 Tuesday, April 13, 2021 to Wednesday, May 12, 2021, unless terminated sooner.



**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 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021.

  
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**GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA**

**ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY  
OF STATE**

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**SECRETARY OF STATE**