



**WHEREAS**, the State of North Dakota has experienced record-setting weather this summer, ranking fifth in the nation in June for an unusually high number of tornadoes, hail and wind events with a total of 211, and recording the state's fourth-greatest number of 90-degree June days on record since 1895; and,

**WHEREAS**, these storms have produced widespread damage to personal property and infrastructure across North Dakota, causing road failures and gravel washouts, delaying response by emergency personnel and jeopardizing the safety of our citizens; and,

**WHEREAS**, the early summer storms produced flash flooding that inundated homes as well as fields and pastures already saturated from two flood events in fall 2019 and spring flooding in 2020; and,

**WHEREAS**, this record-setting weather culminated with a June 29-July 1, 2020, storm that ranked between a 500-year to 1,000-year event, generating up to 52 times the average amount of rainfall, overflowing infrastructure far beyond designed capacities, requiring a whole-of-community approach to debris removal and cleanup efforts; and,

**WHEREAS**, the June 29-July 1, 2020, storm also produced powerful winds and lightning that destroyed electrical equipment and downed miles of power lines, causing hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage; and,

**WHEREAS**, as a result of storm damage, the North Dakota Department of Transportation has documented nearly \$3 million in damage to Federal Aid System highways, and the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services has documented over \$2.2 million in damage to county, city and township infrastructure throughout the state; and,

**WHEREAS**, this severe weather has prompted tribal and local jurisdictions to mobilize flood fight resources; prepare for potential evacuation and rescue operations; mitigate widespread lifeline and infrastructure interruptions; and repair damages to roads, bridges and water control structures; and,

**WHEREAS**, severe summer storm conditions continue to compound economic hardships for agricultural producers who experienced catastrophic losses during the fall 2019 flooding that disrupted harvest and subsequent spring flooding in 2020 that delayed or prevented planting.

**NOW THEREFORE**, Doug Burgum, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, hereby orders activation of the North Dakota State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP) in order to assist local and tribal officials, save lives and prevent injuries, alleviate hardships, implement appropriate response and recovery actions and future mitigation measures, and facilitate restoration of services and infrastructure.

This order is issued pursuant to the following authority and for the following reasons:

1. The Governor is vested with the executive authority pursuant to Article V, Section 1 of the North Dakota Constitution; and,
2. The Governor is vested with statutory authority to issue executive orders to minimize or avert the effects of a disaster or emergency pursuant to Chapter 37-17.1 of the North Dakota Century Code; and,
3. A coordinated and effective effort of all state departments is required to minimize the impact of disasters and emergencies in this state.

This order is in effect immediately and shall remain in effect until it is rescinded.

Executed at the State Capitol in Bismarck, North Dakota, this 31<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2020.



Doug Burgum  
Governor

Attest:



Alvin A. Jaeger  
Secretary of State