



Executive Order 2022-04

WHEREAS, I, Doug Burgum, Governor of North Dakota, by the authority vested in me, do hereby declare a disaster for the spring storm events that took place from April 12-14, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service (NWS) issued multiple blizzard warnings and conducted informational webinars as storm conditions evolved throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, conditions deteriorated quickly due to heavy snow, high winds, several no travel advisories and major road closures including I-94 from the Montana state line to Jamestown and I-29 from Fargo to the Canadian border; and

WHEREAS, sixteen counties and one tribal nation recorded record-breaking or near record-breaking snowfall amounts: Billings, Bottineau, Dunn, Golden Valley, Grand Forks, McHenry, McKenzie, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Mountrail, Oliver, Renville, Sheridan, Stark and Ward counties and the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation; and

WHEREAS, rapid snowfall with record one-day snow amounts broke records in four counties – Dunn, Grand Forks, Mercer and Sheridan – with cumulative totals exceeding 30 inches of snow in parts of the State. Critical infrastructure was overwhelmed, putting systems at stress and vulnerable populations further at risk; and

WHEREAS, local and tribal jurisdictions faced significant snow-related challenges that required additional response resources. Conditions required the activation of State agencies, including the Department of Emergency Services, Department of Transportation, Highway Patrol and Parks and Recreation Department, as well as volunteer organizations and private citizens that mobilized resources available to respond to the emergency situation; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation worked around the clock to clear roadways for motorists; additionally, the agency provided plow services in front of emergency vehicles for life-safety measures; and

WHEREAS, local and tribal emergency managers facilitated pre-staged sheltering with volunteer agencies, activated plans and resources, coordinated support to stranded motorists and ensured continuity of operations for essential workers; and

WHEREAS, critical infrastructure systems, such as commercial transportation, snow removal services and essential workers were not able to function in their normal manner; therefore, citizens were trapped in their homes for several days and faced temporary power outages; and

WHEREAS, agricultural producers have experienced long-term weather condition challenges due to continuous drought and extreme spring weather, and additional losses were experienced due to the timing of calving season with potential secondary impacts of pneumonia in livestock.

WHEREAS, this dangerous historic storm shuttered schools and child care facilities and forced business closures for multiple days.

NOW THEREFORE, Doug Burgum, as Governor of North Dakota, hereby declares a spring storm disaster for sixteen counties and one tribal nation: Billings, Bottineau, Dunn, Golden Valley, Grand Forks, McHenry, McKenzie, McLean, Mercer, Morton, Mountrail, Oliver, Renville, Sheridan, Stark and Ward counties and the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation. All State agencies and administrators shall maintain response and recovery resources and capabilities at high levels of readiness in order to execute their responsibilities pursuant to the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP). State officials shall coordinate with appropriate federal agencies to make recovery programs available to alleviate hardships; implement recovery actions and future mitigation measures to limit the hardships and impact of this disaster; 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 Bismarck, North Dakota, this 25th day of April 2022.



Doug Burgum
Governor

Attest:



Al Jaeger
Secretary of State