



EXECUTIVE ORDER 2023-03

WHEREAS, North Dakota experienced abnormally foggy and still air conditions in January 2023 that impacted visibility and resulted in heavy ice accumulations on power lines and tree limbs, with parts of the state experiencing dense fog and freezing for more than half of the days during the month; and,

WHEREAS, when wind speeds eventually increased, sagging power lines snapped power poles resulting in thousands of power outages and transportation incidents, overwhelming existing response mechanisms; and,

WHEREAS, local, county and tribal emergency management offices utilized close public-private partnerships with the Rural Electrical Cooperatives in coordination with the North Dakota Department of Transportation and North Dakota Highway Patrol for roadway safety; and,

WHEREAS, local capabilities were overwhelmed with power outages and electrical infrastructure failures that impacted the state for the majority of the month and caused significant costs to electric cooperatives; and,

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the State to assist North Dakota, responding to and mitigating the effects of weather emergencies, disasters and other hardships citizens may encounter.

NOW THEREFORE, Doug Burgum, as Governor of North Dakota, by virtue of the authority vested under Article V, Section 1, North Dakota Constitution and Chapter 37-17.1, North Dakota Century Code, hereby declares a statewide winter storm disaster for central, northwestern, and northeastern North Dakota. 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 agencies 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.

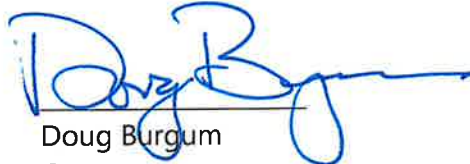
This order is issued pursuant to the following authority and for the following reasons:

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 the State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota, this 21th day of March 2023.



Doug Burgum
Governor

Attest:



Michael Howe
Secretary of State

Deputy