



## EXECUTIVE ORDER 2023-10

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Dakota has experienced a near record-setting December with above normal temperatures, producing a winter storm that generated snow, rain, freezing rain and high winds, which resulted in significant impacts; and,

**WHEREAS**, snow, rain and freezing rain began on the evening of Dec. 25, 2023, and freezing rain continued into the evening of Dec. 26, 2023, which has created thick layers of ice accumulations over vegetation, roads, electrical poles and lines, water systems and other critical infrastructure; and,

**WHEREAS**, areas in eastern North Dakota, including Barnes, LaMoure, Logan and Steele counties as well as the cities of Litchville and Valley City, have issued emergency declarations, and other counties and cities are likely to issue declarations soon, to address the damaging ice storm; and,

**WHEREAS**, ongoing major power outages are causing continued hardships for both rural and urban citizens; and,

**WHEREAS**, ice storm warnings were issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) National Weather Service (NWS) indicating significant impacts would occur across the area; and,

**WHEREAS**, NWS reports as of Dec. 27, 2023, show up to 3 inches of rain fell on frozen ground in some areas and 1 inch of freezing rain fell in other areas over the course of the storm, greatly exceeding normal December precipitation amounts by up to 400% in southeast North Dakota; and,

**WHEREAS**, the ice storm will compound economic hardships for agricultural producers who have already withstood catastrophic losses due to enduring drought conditions; and,

**WHEREAS**, whole community partners mobilized resources through mutual aid requests, including sheltering resources and access through the American Red Cross and meals and warming locations through the Salvation Army; and,

**WHEREAS**, county and city resources in the affected areas have been strained by the impacts from the winter storm.

**NOW THEREFORE**, Doug Burgum, as Governor of the State 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 emergency and 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. All state agencies are ordered to provide response resources and capabilities pursuant to their respective responsibilities detailed in the SEOP.

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 Feb. 26, 2024, or until it is rescinded.

Executed at Bismarck, North Dakota, the 29th day of December, 2023.



Doug Burgum  
Governor

Attest:



Michael Howe  
Secretary of State