



EXECUTIVE ORDER 2024-02

WHEREAS, due to extreme fluctuations in temperatures within a short period of time, ice jams have been forming on the Missouri River and are causing a rapid rise in the river between the cities of Bismarck and Mandan forcing water into low-lying areas, and, left unchecked, may threaten homes, businesses and lifeline infrastructure, requiring a rapid response by local and tribal responders statewide; and,

WHEREAS, a flood warning issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) National Weather Service (NWS) indicates the potential for significant river flooding associated with the ice jam; and

WHEREAS, ice jam flooding on the Missouri River has the potential to cause significant impacts, including evacuation of families and livestock and significant impacts to transportation networks as well as private and public infrastructure, resulting in severe economic impacts and disruption of commerce; and,

WHEREAS, state and local jurisdictions as well as private stakeholders are mobilizing resources for flood fight operations, extensive damages and closures of roads; and,

WHEREAS, addressing these concerns will require extensive efforts by the state and local communities to address threats to public health and safety, reduce economic hardships, and continue protection, response, recovery and mitigation efforts.

NOW THEREFORE, Doug Burgum, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, by virtue of the authority vested in Article V, Section 1, North Dakota Constitution and Chapter 37.1, North Dakota Century Code, hereby declares an emergency for Burleigh and Morton Counties and hereby orders the following:

A. Activation of the North Dakota State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP) is hereby ordered, 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, to include the North Dakota National Guard, are ordered to maintain high readiness and provide appropriate levels of flood response resources and capabilities in preparation for timely execution of their respective responsibilities pursuant to the SEOP.

B. The Adjutant General is authorized to activate and make available North Dakota National Guard resources to be utilized in preparation of, and in support of, local and tribal governments based upon normal cost share agreements.

The foregoing 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 by all state departments and agencies is required to minimize the impact of disasters and emergencies in this state.

This order is in effect immediately and shall remain in effect for 30 days.

Executed at Bismarck, North Dakota, this 29th day of February, 2024.


Doug Burgum
Governor

Attest:


Michael Howe
Secretary of State

