

# State of Louisiana



## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

### PROCLAMATION NO. 35 BJ 2011

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#### *STATE OF EMERGENCY - CONTINUING DAMAGE TO INTERSTATE 20 BRIDGE, MADISON PARISH*

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**WHEREAS,** the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721, et seq., confers upon the Governor of the State of Louisiana emergency powers to deal with emergencies and disasters, including those caused by fire, flood, earthquake or other natural or manmade causes, in order to ensure that preparations of this State will be adequate to deal with such emergencies or disasters and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State of Louisiana;

**WHEREAS,** when the Governor determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, R.S. 29:724(B)(1) empowers the Governor to declare a State of Emergency by Executive Order or Proclamation, or both;

**WHEREAS,** on March 23, 2011, the vessel KAY A. ECKSTEIN, moving south down the Mississippi River with 30 barges in tow, struck both the Highway 80 Railroad Bridge and the Interstate 20 Highway Bridge that connect Louisiana and Mississippi;

**WHEREAS,** one of the barges, Barge SCF-2301-B, became trapped in a perpendicular manner against Pier E1 of the Interstate 20 bridge where it currently remains submerged, even after several unsuccessful attempts to free it; the current of the river flowing around the barge immediately began producing turbulence around Pier E1 causing a scour hole to develop in the river bed on the opposite side of Pier E1 which continues to deepen;

**WHEREAS,** attempts to remove the barge have thus far been unsuccessful and the continuing scouring to Pier E1 presents a threat to the stability of the bridge, a threat to the safety of the motoring public traversing the bridge, and a threat to the navigability of the Mississippi River;

**WHEREAS,** a declaration of emergency is necessary to allow the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness to respond and request assistance from other state or federal agencies if necessary; and

**NOW THEREFORE, I, BOBBY JINDAL,** Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

**SECTION 1:** Pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721, et seq., a state of emergency is declared to exist in the State of Louisiana as a result of this barge accident at the Interstate 20 Bridge in Madison Parish, Louisiana which has caused significant damage to the bridge and created emergency conditions that threaten the motoring public and navigability of the Mississippi River.

**SECTION 2:** The Department of Transportation and Development is designated the primary response agency to monitor, evaluate and repair the damage to the bridge, and continue to take such other actions within the Department's mission such as coordinating federal resources including the involvement of the U.S. Department of

Transportation or similar federal agencies, and the Secretary is hereby authorized to undertake any activity within the scope of this section authorized by law which she deems necessary and appropriate in response to this declaration.

**SECTION 3:** The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness is the agency responsible for coordinating all emergency response activities beyond those described in Section 2 and the Director is hereby authorized to undertake any activity authorized by law which he deems necessary and appropriate in response to this declaration.

**SECTION 4:** All departments, commissions, boards, agencies and officers of the state, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions the State may take in responding to the hazards caused to the Interstate 20 Bridge during this event.

**SECTION 5:** The state of emergency extends from Monday, April 04, 2011 through Tuesday, May 3, 2011 unless terminated sooner.



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2011.

**/S/Bobby Jindal**  
**GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA**

**ATTEST BY**  
**THE GOVERNOR**

**/S/Tom Schedler**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**