

State of Louisiana



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION NO. 69 BJ 2009

STATE OF EMERGENCY – SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS

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 man-made 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, a series of severe weather systems passed through the north and west part of the State beginning on October 28, 2009, consisting of strong winds, heavy rains and tornadoes. The system is predicted to continue affecting the entire State through October 31, 2009, causing local flooding. As a result of these weather systems, tornadoes severely damaged a number of homes in Bossier, Caddo and Jefferson Davis Parishes. Many parishes have experienced significant flooding. Bossier and Caddo Parishes have experienced power outages. Some parishes have closed schools and government office buildings as numerous roads prove impassable as a result of flooding;

WHEREAS, as a result of the weather systems, the following fifteen parishes have declared a state of emergency to properly respond to this incident: Bossier, Caldwell, Caddo, LaSalle, Morehouse, Catahoula, Red River, East Carroll, Ouachita, Jefferson Davis, Webster, Lincoln, Winn, Madison and Union;

WHEREAS, in response to this incident, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness activated the Crisis Action Team at 1600 hours on October 29, 2009, to monitor and report on the incident and to respond to the requests of the parishes. GOHSEP, the Louisiana National Guard, the Department of Wildlife Fisheries and the State Fire Marshall have positioned personnel and equipment in affected parishes;

WHEREAS, many parishes are in need of assistance to respond to current conditions and anticipate needing further assistance as a result of rain swollen streams and rivers and that a declaration of emergency is necessary to allow state agencies to thoroughly prepare for any eventuality and to allow federal agencies and federal resources to be deployed if necessary; and

NOW THEREFORE I, BOBBY JINDAL, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and 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 the damage and flooding experienced in the State and the threat of additional damages and flooding which has created emergency conditions that continue to threaten the lives and property of the citizens of the State.

SECTION 2: The Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness is hereby authorized to undertake any activity authorized by law which he deems necessary and appropriate in response to this declaration;

SECTION 3: This state of emergency extends from October 28, 2009, through November 27, 2009, unless terminated sooner.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 30th day of October, 2009.

/S/ Bobby Jindal
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY
THE GOVERNOR

/S/ Jay Dardenne
SECRETARY OF STATE