



STATE OF ALABAMA
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS the Alabama Emergency Management Act of 1955, as amended, confers upon the Governor the power to proclaim a state of emergency when a natural disaster of major proportions has occurred or is reasonably anticipated in the immediate future, *see* Ala. Code § 31-9-8;

WHEREAS, on June 18, 2021, the National Weather Service began forecasting that the State would experience strong winds, significant rainfall, flooding, storm surge, and a threat of tornadoes as a result of Tropical Storm Claudette;

WHEREAS the National Weather Service's forecast proved accurate, with several areas of the State experiencing significant damage to public and private property and some experiencing personal injuries and even the loss of life;

WHEREAS the full extent of Tropical Storm Claudette's impact is unknown at this time but it is possible that additional property damage, personal injury, or loss of life will occur or be discovered;

WHEREAS disruption of essential utility services and systems has occurred and may continue to occur, causing extreme peril to the citizens in the State;

WHEREAS these impacts, by reason of their magnitude, are, or are likely to be, beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single county, city and county, or city, and will require combined forces to combat, *see* Ala. Code § 31-9-3;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of the State of Alabama, pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Alabama Emergency Management Act of 1955, as amended, Ala. Code §§ 31-9-1 *et seq.*, do hereby proclaim that a state of emergency existed in the State of Alabama, effective at 10:00 a.m. CDT on Friday, June 18, 2021 in the following counties: Baldwin, Butler, Cherokee, DeKalb, Escambia, Mobile, Monroe, and Tuscaloosa. I direct the activation of the Alabama Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and all appropriate annexes for purposes of the State's response to this severe weather event. The Alabama Emergency Management Agency State Emergency Operations Center shall be activated for purposes of responding to this incident, as shall be all affected or potentially affected Alabama Emergency Management Divisions.

FURTHER, I hereby proclaim and direct all of the following:

I. Activation of the Alabama National Guard and other state agencies

I hereby direct the Alabama National Guard to prepare to be activated on order of the Governor to respond to this severe weather event, and I direct the appropriate state agencies to exercise their statutory and regulatory authority to assist the affected communities and entities in responding to and recovering from this event. I also direct the Alabama Emergency Management Agency to make the appropriate assessment of damages from this event and seek the necessary state and federal assistance for the affected areas.

II. Price gouging

In accordance with sections 8-31-1 through 8-31-6 of the Code of Alabama, all persons are hereby placed on notice that it is unlawful for any person within the State of Alabama to impose unconscionable prices (i.e., to engage in "price gouging") for the sale or rental of any commodity or rental facility during the period of a declared state of emergency.

III. Waiver of federal motor-carrier regulations

Pursuant to 49 CFR § 390.23, this declaration of a state of emergency facilitates a waiver of certain regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation-Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), including 49 C.F.R. Part 395 (Hours of Service for Drivers), as it relates to the provision of emergency-or disaster-related materials, supplies, goods, and services for this severe weather event. The waiver for this event shall terminate at the earliest of (1) the conclusion of the motor carrier's or driver's direct assistance in providing emergency relief; (2) 30 days from the initial declaration of emergency; (3) the issuance of a proclamation terminating this state of emergency; or (4) any other time dictated by the FMCSA's regulations. Motor carriers that have an out-of-service order in effect may not take advantage of the relief from regulation that this declaration provides under 49 C.F.R. § 390.23.

IV. Transportation of emergency equipment, supplies, etc.

I instruct the appropriate agencies to take necessary steps and issue the appropriate documents to expedite the movement of vehicles, or vehicles and loads, that are transporting emergency equipment, services and supplies, storm-related debris, building and construction materials, or temporary emergency buildings and their components, subject to the following rules:

- A. The documents shall be subject to approval and clearance by the Alabama Department of Transportation and the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency and shall cover specific designated state routes.
- B. Transporters are responsible to ensure that they have proper oversize signs, markings, flags, and escorts as defined in the State of Alabama's rules and regulations.
- C. Insurance requirements shall not be waived.
- D. Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to allow any vehicle to exceed the weight limits posted for bridges and like structures, nor shall anything in this proclamation be construed to relieve any vehicle, or the carrier, owner, or driver of any vehicle from compliance with any restrictions other than those specified in this proclamation, or from any statute, rule, order, or other legal requirement not specifically waived herein.

V. Actual expense reimbursement

I find that it is fair, reasonable, and appropriate that those State of Alabama employees who are required to perform disaster recovery and response services away from their home base of operations for this event be reimbursed for the actual expenses they incur while performing these services on behalf of the State of Alabama. Therefore, I authorize the reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses, as prescribed by the Fiscal Policies and Procedures Manual, for state employees who have been, are being, or may be called away from their home base in response to this state of emergency. All such claims for expense reimbursement must be reasonable and must be certified as such by the employee's agency head or appointing authority.

VI. Applicability of COVID-19 Orders

Because this severe weather event has occurred during the State's response to the COVID-19-related public health emergency, I find that it would further promote the safety and protection of the people of Alabama to clarify the applicability of any remaining state or local order, ordinance, rule, or other provision adopted or issued to mitigate the threat of COVID-19 (hereinafter "COVID-19 Order"). To that end:

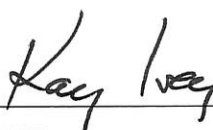
- A. Any remaining COVID-19 Order is suspended to the extent that its application or enforcement would endanger any person affected by this severe weather event or impede the ability of any individuals, governmental entities, organizations, or businesses responding to this severe weather event to preserve human life, to prevent or mitigate human suffering, or to protect or repair critical infrastructure as defined by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency.
- B. Except as provided in this section, nothing in this proclamation shall otherwise be construed to modify, alter, or amend any remaining COVID-19 Order, which shall remain in full force and effect according to its terms, including the terms related to its expiration.

FURTHER, to the extent a provision in this proclamation conflicts with any provision of state law, such law is hereby suspended for the duration of this state of emergency, and this order shall control.

FURTHER, I declare that this proclamation, and all subsequent orders, laws, rules, or regulations issued pursuant hereto, shall remain in full force and effect for the duration of this state of emergency, except as otherwise expressly specified.



IN WITNESS, WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal to be affixed by the Secretary of State at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on this the 21st day of June, 2021.



Kay Ivey
Governor

ATTEST:



John H. Merrill
Secretary of State