



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

MARGARET WOOD HASSAN
Governor

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BY HER EXCELLENCY
MARGARET WOOD HASSAN, GOVERNOR

Executive Order 2015-1

An Order Declaring a State of Emergency Due to Severe Winter Storm

WHEREAS, today, January 26, 2015, a winter storm has begun to move toward New Hampshire with extreme winter weather and blizzard conditions predicted throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, winter storm warnings and coastal flood warnings have been issued; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service has forecasted the severe weather to continue throughout the evening and through tomorrow, bringing heavy snowfall, high winds, whiteout conditions and coastal flooding; and

WHEREAS, blizzard warnings are in effect for Rockingham, Hillsborough and Strafford counties, with potential snowfall of over 24 inches and wind gusts of over fifty to fifty-five miles per hour; and

WHEREAS, hazardous driving conditions with drifting snow, whiteouts and road blockages are predicted throughout the state and travel will be treacherous beginning late tonight and many roads could become impassable; and

WHEREAS, the state's beaches are closed due to potential coastal flooding and strong and gusting winds are predicted during the evening of up to 50 miles per hour over the water, and up to 24-foot seas are expected off the New Hampshire coast; and

WHEREAS, the state anticipates that it may need to open emergency shelters to provide emergency services to displaced individuals in the event of power outages and below-freezing temperatures; and

WHEREAS, I have directed Homeland Security and Emergency Management and other state agencies to prepare for the potential impacts of the storm by activating the Emergency Operations Center, implementing the State's Emergency Operations Plan, monitoring weather and flood conditions, and providing local assistance and planning in anticipation of this severe weather event; and

WHEREAS, despite these emergency preparations, the storm is anticipated to cause extensive damage in areas of highest snowfall in southern New Hampshire and along the coast; and

WHEREAS, under the provisions of New Hampshire RSA 4:45, I find that a natural disaster of major proportions is imminent within this state, and that the safety and welfare of the inhabitants of this state require the declaration of a state of emergency as defined in RSA 21-P:35, VIII;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARGARET WOOD HASSAN, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, by the authority vested in me by part II, article 41 of the New Hampshire Constitution and New Hampshire RSA 4:45, do hereby declare a state of emergency to exist in the State of New Hampshire as of 11 p.m. on January 26, 2015.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that all agencies of the state government utilize and employ state personnel, equipment and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the emergency management powers under my direction pursuant to RSA 4:47, 21-P:34 *et. seq.*, and the State's Emergency Operations Plan.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as possible, this executive order be filed with the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this executive order.

Given under my hand and seal at the Executive Chambers in Concord, this 26th day of January, in the Year of our Lord, two thousand and fifteen, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and thirty-nine.


GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE