



# THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## EXECUTIVE ORDER

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BY THE GOVERNOR:

**WHEREAS:** On January 21 and 22, 2017, a severe weather system moved into the state of Georgia producing severe thunderstorms, excessive rainfall and long track tornadoes resulting in numerous injuries and fatalities as well as extensive property damage in Southwest and Southcentral Georgia; and

**WHEREAS:** During the morning hours of January 22, 2017, I issued an Executive Order declaring a State of Emergency in seven (7) Georgia counties based on the projected needs of the impacted counties; and

**WHEREAS:** Assessments from County Emergency Managers in conjunction with the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency now detail a need for immediate assistance in nine (9) additionally impacted Georgia counties; and

**WHEREAS:** Due to downed trees and debris, Georgia's network of rural roads may be rendered impassable in areas of the impacted counties, isolating residences and farms from access to essential public services; and

**WHEREAS:** The assistance of the government of the State of Georgia is necessary to protect the public health, preserve the safety of the public, keep property damage to a minimum and restore the social and economic welfare of these counties; and

**WHEREAS:** Temporary lodging availability and the uninterrupted supply of transportation fuel are essential needs of the public and any shortage threatens the public safety and welfare; and

**WHEREAS:** Due to a similar severe storm system in Southwest Georgia on January 2, 2017, I issued and extended a State of Emergency (No. 01.18.17.02) for Dougherty and Mitchell counties on January 18, 2017, which expires at 11:59 p.m. on January 25, 2017; and

**WHEREAS:** The most recent storm of January 21 and 22, 2017, impacted and exacerbated the need for emergency assistance in Dougherty and Mitchell counties; and

**WHEREAS:** The authority vested in the Governor by virtue of Article 3, Section 38-3-51, of the Georgia Emergency Management Act of 1981, as amended to issue reasonable orders, rules and regulations deemed necessary to protect public health, safety and welfare, and to bring the emergency situation under control within the acknowledged limitations of the powers of the Governor.

**NOW, THEREFORE, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY**

**ORDERED:** That a State of Emergency exists in the following counties: Atkinson, Baker, Berrien, Brooks, Calhoun, Clay, Colquitt, Cook, Crisp, Dougherty, Lowndes, Mitchell, Thomas, Turner, Wilcox and Worth.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** That all resources of the State of Georgia be made available to assist in the response and recovery activities currently being undertaken in the above mentioned counties, and the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency activate the Georgia Emergency Operations Plan.

**IT IS FURTHER**

**ORDERED:** That my previous January 18, 2017, Executive Order declaring a State of Emergency (No. 01.18.17.02) for Dougherty and Mitchell counties, set to expire on January 25, 2017, is hereby terminated and all emergency efforts for Dougherty and Mitchell counties be incorporated into this Executive Order and its effective time period.

This Executive Order shall be valid for a period of seven (7) days, beginning on January 23, 2017, and ending at 11:59 p.m. on January 30, 2017.

This 23 day of January, 2017 at 9:00 AM/PM.

*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR