



EXECUTIVE ORDER 2019-09

WHEREAS, North Dakota has experienced abnormally high late summer and fall precipitation and an unseasonable, severe snowstorm impacting the State during October 09 - 12, 2019; and

WHEREAS, record heavy snows with high moisture content, high winds and widespread blizzard conditions are expected throughout the duration of this snowstorm event; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of the October blizzard event are expected to significantly overwhelm the response capabilities of local and tribal officials, and will present major threats to life safety and potentially substantial impacts to community lifelines and critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, record fall precipitation levels and additional heavy snow have continued to saturate soil and damage critical transportation and utility infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the significant increase in precipitation has also resulted in substantially increased fall river and stream flows and flood stages, necessitating increased outflows from dams throughout the State and heightened concerns for extended flooding next spring; and

WHEREAS, the significant effects of this October storm may likely be a debilitating blow to agricultural producers who are already experiencing significant challenges due to the abnormally high precipitation levels during the late summer and fall; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the State to assist the people of North Dakota in addressing the emergencies, disasters, and other hardships.

NOW THEREFORE, Doug Burgum, as Governor the State of North Dakota, hereby orders activation of the North Dakota State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP) in order to assist local and tribal officials, save lives and prevent injuries, alleviate hardships, implement appropriate response and recovery actions and future mitigation measures, and facilitate restoration of services and infrastructure.

All State agencies shall provide response resources and capabilities pursuant to their respective responsibilities detailed in the SEOP.

This order is issued pursuant to the following authority and for the following reasons:

1. The Governor is vested with the executive authority pursuant to Article V, Section 1 of the North Dakota Constitution; and
2. The Governor is vested with statutory authority to issue executive orders to minimize or avert the effects of a disaster or emergency pursuant to Chapter 37-17.1 of the North Dakota Century Code; and
3. A coordinated and effective effort of all State departments is required to minimize the impact of disasters and emergencies in this state.

This order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded.

Executed at Bismarck, North Dakota, this 11th day of October, 2019.



Doug Burgum
Governor

Attest:



Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State

Jim Silrum
Deputy Secretary of State