



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER

GOVERNOR

February 24, 2021

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 196

DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, severe storms during the night of February 15, 2021 produced an EF-3 tornado that touched down in Brunswick County; and

WHEREAS, the tornado led to the loss of life, the injury of residents, and severe property damage that threatens the well-being and health of residents of the State of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, certain measures are necessary to ensure the protection and safety of North Carolinians and coordinate the emergency response among state and local entities and officials; and

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.1(4) provides that it is the responsibility of the undersigned, state agencies, and local governments to "provide for cooperation and coordination of activities relating to emergency mitigation preparedness, response, and recovery among agencies and officials of this state and with similar agencies and officials of other states, with local and federal governments, with interstate organizations, and with other private and quasi-official organizations"; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of this storm constitute a state of emergency as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 166A-19.3(6) and 166A-19.3(19); and

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 166A-19.10 and 166A-19.20 authorize the Governor to declare a state of emergency and exercise the powers and duties set forth therein to direct and aid in response to, recovery from, and mitigation against emergencies; and

NOW, THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the state of North Carolina, **IT IS ORDERED:**

Section 1.

I hereby declare that a state of emergency, as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 166A-19.3(6) and 166A-19.3(19), exists in Brunswick County, due to the damages as a result of the impacts from the severe weather event.

For purposes of this Executive Order, the emergency area is Brunswick County ("the Emergency Area") as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 166A-19.3(7) and 166A-19.20(b).

Section 2.

I order all state and local government entities and agencies to cooperate in the implementation of the provisions of this declaration and the provisions of the North Carolina Emergency Operations Plan ("the Plan").

Section 3.

I delegate to Erik A. Hooks, the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety (“DPS”), or his designee, all power and authority granted to and required of me by Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes for the purpose of implementing the Plan and deploying the State Emergency Response Team to take the appropriate actions necessary to promote and secure the safety and protection of the populace in North Carolina.

Secretary Hooks, or his designee, shall implement the Plan in coordination with the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Eric Boyette.

Section 4.

Further, Secretary Hooks, as chief coordinating officer for the State of North Carolina, shall exercise the powers prescribed in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 143B-602.

Section 5.

I hereby authorize and direct the North Carolina Department of Transportation to utilize its resources to clear vegetative debris produced by the tornado and placed along the roadside of non-system roads.

Section 6.

I further direct Secretary Hooks or his designee to seek assistance from any and all agencies of the United States Government as may be needed to meet the emergency and seek reimbursement for costs incurred by the State in responding to this emergency

Section 7.

I hereby order that this declaration be: (1) distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (2) promptly filed with the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, the Secretary of State, and the superior court clerks in the counties to which it applies, unless the circumstances of the state of emergency would prevent or impede this; and (3) distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this declaration.

Section 8.

This Executive Order does not prohibit or restrict lawfully possessed firearms or ammunition or impose any limitation on the consumption, transportation, sale or purchase of alcoholic beverages as provided in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(c).

Section 9.

This Executive Order will not trigger the prohibitions against excessive pricing in the emergency area, notwithstanding the provisions of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.23.

Section 10.

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in the City of Raleigh, this 24th day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one.



Roy Cooper
Governor

ATTEST:



Elaine F. Marshall
Secretary of State

