

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Governor's Office

PROCLAMATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY

April 13, 2007

WHEREAS, Ongoing monitoring and projections made by the National Weather Service and investigations made on my behalf are predicting that a severe winter storm with heavy accumulations of snow mixed with rain and high winds is going to strike the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the predicted precipitation may result in extensive road closures, community public safety delays, property damage, and other adverse impacts upon the population of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, heavy rains and tidal surges may cause widespread flooding further adversely impacting the state; and

WHEREAS, the emergency situation caused by this impending historical storm may be of such magnitude and severity as to render essential the Commonwealth's supplementation of county and municipal efforts and resources and the activation of all applicable state, county, and municipal emergency response plans; and

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the provisions of Subsection 7301(c) of the Emergency Management Services Code (35 Pa. C.S. §§ 7101 et seq.), I do hereby proclaim the existence of a disaster emergency in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and I direct all Commonwealth departments and agencies to utilize all available resources and personnel as is deemed necessary to cope with the magnitude and severity of this emergency situation.

FURTHER, I hereby transfer up to \$1,000,000 in unused appropriated funds to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. The aforementioned funds shall be used for disaster-related expenses that may be incurred by various state agencies and departments. These funds shall be credited to a special account established by the Office of the Budget. All Commonwealth agencies purchasing supplies or services in response to this emergency are authorized to utilize the emergency procurement procedures set forth in Section 516 of the Commonwealth Procurement Code, 62 Pa.C.S. §516. This Proclamation shall serve as the written determination of the basis for the emergency under Section 516; and

FURTHER, I hereby direct the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to activate and staff the State Emergency Operations Center for the duration of this emergency situation and to augment it with personnel from other state agencies and departments. I also authorize the Agency to coordinate and direct the emergency preparedness and response activities of other state agencies and departments as deemed necessary to deal with the exigencies of this impending emergency situation through implementation of the State Emergency Operations Plan; and

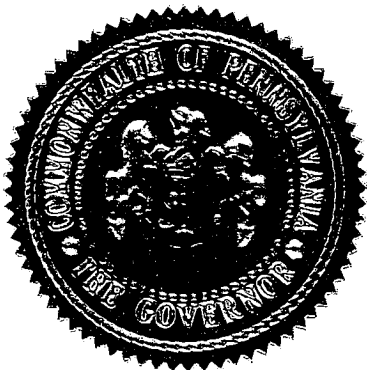
FURTHER, I hereby authorize the Secretary of Transportation to use all available equipment, resources, and personnel of the Department, in whatever manner that he deems necessary, to ensure that all state highways in the areas that may be affected by the disaster are cleared of snow and debris and any other obstructions resulting from this severe storm, and to ensure that highways, bridges, roadbeds, and related facilities and structures, including federal-aid highways, that may sustain damage in the disaster affected areas are immediately repaired, maintained, reconstructed, or replaced, or that new construction is undertaken where necessary. In addition, I hereby waive any laws or regulations that would restrict the application and use of the Department's equipment, resources, and personnel to assist local jurisdictions in the repairs and clearing and removal of debris and other types of obstructions from non-state-owned highways. This assistance to local jurisdictions may be provided solely at the discretion of the Secretary of Transportation. This assistance, however, does not apply to privately owned highways, roads, streets, or other types of property; and I hereby authorize the Secretary of Transportation, in his sole discretion, to waive any provision of the Vehicle Code or any other law or regulation which he is authorized by law to administer or enforce as may be necessary to respond to this impending emergency; and

FURTHER, I hereby authorize the Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police to use all available resources and personnel of the Department, in whatever manner that he deems necessary, to aid in the recovery aspects related to all interstate, other federal, and state highways in the Commonwealth to address the emergency resulting from this severe storm; and

FURTHER, pursuant to the powers vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this Commonwealth, I hereby authorize the Adjutant General of Pennsylvania to place on state active duty for the duration of the emergency disaster proclamation, such individuals and units of the Pennsylvania National Guard, as requested by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, to alleviate the potential danger to public health and safety caused by the aforementioned emergency; and

FURTHER, I hereby direct that the emergency response and recovery aspects of the Commonwealth and all applicable county, municipal, and other disaster emergency response and recovery plans be activated and that all state, county, and municipal actions taken to implement those plans be coordinated through the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency; and

STILL FURTHER, I hereby urge the governing bodies and executive officers of all political subdivisions that may be affected by this emergency to act as necessary to meet the current exigencies as legally authorized under this proclamation, namely: by the employment of temporary workers; by the rental of equipment; and by entering into such contracts and agreements as may be required to meet the emergency, all without regard to those time-consuming procedures and formalities normally prescribed by law, mandatory constitutional requirements excepted.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the city of Harrisburg, this thirteenth day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and... thirty-first.

Edward G. Rendell

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor