



The State of Maryland

Executive Department

EXECUTIVE ORDER

01.01.2026.05

Declaration of a State of Emergency - Winter Storm

- WHEREAS, The State of Maryland is subject to a variety of hazards and disasters, including an impending emergency as defined in Section 14-101(c) of the Public Safety Article of the Maryland Code;
- WHEREAS, Having been advised and informed by the Maryland Department of Emergency Management that, as a result of a significant winter storm expected to impact the State beginning Sunday afternoon, February 22, 2026, and continuing through Monday, February 23, 2026, including the risk of heavy snow with blizzard conditions in some areas, hazardous road conditions, and power outages, action is needed to prepare to protect the lives and property of Maryland residents and visitors;
- WHEREAS, Because of the potential impacts of this severe weather and in preparation for all contingencies, an emergency exists statewide;
- WHEREAS Transportation, power utilities, water utilities, and other critical infrastructures may be negatively affected by the impacts of the storm;
- WHEREAS State and local government agencies may require additional resources and support to implement proactive actions and meet the public safety and welfare needs of Maryland residents who may be negatively impacted by the consequences of the storm and require sheltering due to power outages, transportation disruptions, and other unforeseen impacts of winter weather;
- WHEREAS, In order to waive certain regulations to facilitate emergency response and restoration activities, to activate certain emergency contracts, and to facilitate the deployment of requisite resources within provisions of Maryland law;

NOW,
THEREFORE,

I, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO TITLE 14 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE OF THE MARYLAND CODE, AND BASED ON THE ABOVE FINDINGS, HEREBY DECLARE THAT A STATE OF EMERGENCY EXISTS IN THE STATE AND THAT PREPARATIONS MUST BE MADE FOR THE ANTICIPATED SIGNIFICANT WINTER STORM EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON FEBRUARY 22, 2026, AND HEREBY PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

- A. The Maryland Department of Emergency Management is hereby directed to coordinate the State response and recovery to impacts of the winter storm.
- B. All other appropriate State authorities are hereby authorized to activate their emergency preparedness plans and engage, deploy, use, and coordinate available resources in furtherance of those plans.
- C. The Maryland National Guard is hereby called into State service.

GIVEN Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, in the City of Annapolis, this 22nd Day of February 2026.



Wes Moore
Governor

ATTEST:



Susan C. Lee
Secretary of State