



Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation

WHEREAS, beginning in the afternoon and continuing through at least late evening on Friday, March 31, 2023, a severe storm front impacted a substantial majority of the counties in the State of Illinois, including severe threats such as numerous tornadoes, heavy rains, and damaging straight line winds up to 90 mph; and,

WHEREAS, in Belvidere, in Boone County, severe storms with 90 mph winds caused a structure collapse, including a partial roof and floor collapse, at a concert at the Apollo Theatre, resulting in the death of one individual and injuries to approximately 40 others, including critical injuries to approximately 15 individuals; and,

WHEREAS, south of Robinson, in Crawford County, a tornado caused the collapse of three homes, resulting in the death of three individuals; and,

WHEREAS, both Boone County and Crawford County experienced significant additional damage, with approximately 30 structures presently known to have been damaged in Boone County, and with Crawford County having multiple homes collapsed and the Robinson Airport experiencing a total loss with extensive damage to all buildings; and,

WHEREAS, several tornadoes were reported to have touched down in Sangamon County, resulting in heavy damage to structures in Sherman, severe damage to homes in Riverton, and damage with debris in and around Dawson; and,

WHEREAS, in addition to the tragic incidents and extensive damage in Boone, Crawford, and Sangamon Counties, this severe storm front resulted in damage to numerous residences and other structures, vehicle accidents, downed trees and power lines, accumulations of debris, power outages, and road closures across the State, including in DuPage and Marion Counties; and,

WHEREAS, damage assessments are still ongoing in numerous counties around the State and are likely to result in identification of additional significant damage in other areas; and,

WHEREAS, the effects of this severe storm front are expected to significantly burden local resources and capabilities in many areas of the State; and,

WHEREAS, these conditions provide legal justification under section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Act for the issuance of a proclamation of disaster in an effort to ensure the State is fully prepared to protect the health and safety of all residents; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Constitution, in Article V, Section 8, provides that “the Governor shall have the supreme executive power, and shall be responsible for the faithful execution of the laws,” and states, in the Preamble, that a central purpose of the Illinois Constitution is to “provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the people”;

NOW, THEREFORE, in the interest of aiding the people of Illinois and the local governments responsible for ensuring public health and safety, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, hereby proclaim as follows:

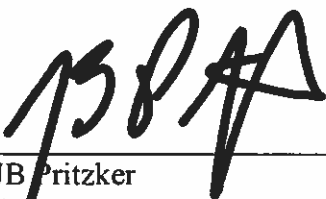
Section 1: Pursuant to the provisions of Section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/7, I find that a disaster exists within the State of Illinois and specifically declare Boone, Crawford, DuPage, Marion and Sangamon Counties as disaster areas. This proclamation authorizes the exercise of all of the emergency powers provided in Section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/7, including but not limited those specific emergency powers set forth below.

Section 2. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency is directed to implement the State Emergency Operations Plan and coordinate State resources to support local governments in disaster response and recovery operations.

Section 3. To aid with emergency purchases necessary for response and other emergency powers as authorized by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, the provisions of the Illinois Procurement Code and the Illinois Governmental Joint Purchasing Act that would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with this disaster are suspended to the extent they are not required by federal law.

Section 4: This proclamation can facilitate a request for federal disaster assistance if a complete and comprehensive assessment of damage indicates that effective recovery is beyond the capabilities of the State and affected local governments.

Section 5: This proclamation shall be effective immediately.



JB Pritzker
Governor

Date: April 1, 2023