State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
State House, Room 224
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
401-222-2080

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER

13-02

February 8, 2013

DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, a winter storm consisting of high winds, heavy snow and blizzard conditions is forecast to impact the entire State of Rhode Island today and tonight and during the daytime Saturday; and

WHEREAS, heavy snow accumulations, drifting snow and hurricane force winds may result in dangerous driving conditions, stranded vehicles, power outages, structural damage, coastal flooding and other potential hazards which pose an imminent threat to public safety and to public and private property; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety and resources of the people of the State of Rhode Island are endangered thereby.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee, pursuant to the powers contained in Article 9 of the Rhode Island Constitution and the Rhode Island General Laws, including but not limited to Chapter 15 of Title 30, do hereby order as follows:

1. A state of disaster emergency is declared for the State of Rhode Island due to the dangers to life and property posed by this winter storm; and

2. I hereby order that non-essential State offices and agencies shall be closed on Friday, February 8, 2013, between hours of 1:00 p.m. through 4:00 p.m. effective immediately, and non-essential personnel shall be relived from duty between the hours of 1:00 p.m. through 4:00 p.m. Essential personnel, as determined by their respective agencies, should report to work and/or remain at work; and

3. While this proclamation does not presently constitute a complete travel ban, or closure of the Rhode Island airports, or a declared bank holiday pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 19-13-5 (unless explicitly incorporated in a subsequent Order), private businesses and citizens are encouraged to limit non-essential activities and travel in order to allow state and local officials to respond to and recover from the storm; and

4. I hereby authorize the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (the "RIEMA") to activate and deploy the Rhode Island State Urban Search and Rescue Team and its personnel and resources, if deemed necessary, for disaster emergency response duty to assist in the response to this disaster; and

5. Law enforcement and environmental authorities are direct to compel the evacuation or closure of all or part of the population from any stricken or threatened area within the state as deemed necessary for public safety, and to control ingress and egress to and from a stricken or threatened area; and

6. All state departments, agencies or quasi-state agencies and boards and commissions performing executive functions shall cooperate fully with the RIEMA in all matters concerning this Order. Efforts to provide emergency disaster relief to the affected cities and towns should be coordinated by and through RIEMA; and

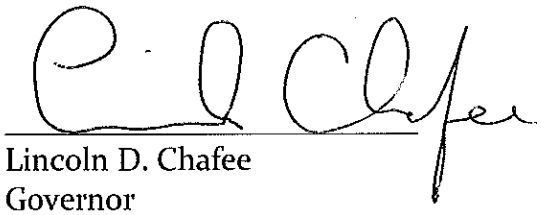
7. The Director of the Department of Environmental Management is authorized, within her discretion, to suspend regulations governing fishery landings if necessary during the duration of this Order; and

8. Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 43-3-28, I hereby determine the existence of an emergency brought about by the disruption and/or interruption of transportation services and order that, by this proclamation, commercial carriers of home heating fuel, propane and liquid natural gas are afforded relief from the provisions of 49 CFR 395.3(b) of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations for interstate motor carriers while providing home heating fuels, propane and liquid natural gas to customers in Rhode Island during a period of five (5) days from the issuance of this Executive Order; and

9. Pursuant to the emergency powers granted by Rhode Island General Laws, and any other applicable provisions of state or federal law, I shall from time to time issue additional recommendations, directions and orders as circumstances require, either written or verbal; and

10. This Order shall take effect immediately and remain in full force and effect until the threat or danger has passed or the emergency conditions no longer exist.

So Ordered:



Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor