



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION NUMBER 51 JBE 2018

STATE OF EMERGENCY – RIVER FLOODING

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, confers upon the Governor of the State of Louisiana emergency powers to deal with emergencies and disasters, including those caused by fire, flood, earthquake or other natural or manmade causes, in order to ensure that preparations of this State will be adequate to deal with such emergencies or disasters and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, when the Governor determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, La. R.S. 29:724(B)(1) empowers the Governor to declare a state of emergency by executive order or proclamation, or both;

WHEREAS, due to recent severe weather in the state and north of the state, river gauges on the Mississippi River and Atchafalaya River are on a steady rise and it is predicted to meet or exceed the flood stage within the next few weeks;

WHEREAS, excessive rainfall is predicted later in the week that may further exacerbate flash flooding and river flooding;

WHEREAS, many parishes along the Mississippi River and Atchafalaya River need to take protective measures to help mitigate possible flooding; and

WHEREAS, five parishes have declared an emergency including Concordia, East Carroll, Madison, Tensas and Terrebonne.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JOHN BEL EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: Pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721 *et seq.*, a state of emergency is hereby declared to exist as a result of the severe weather caused by this event, the effects of which continue to threaten the lives and property of the citizens of the State in the parishes of Concordia, East Carroll, Madison, Tensas and Terrebonne.

SECTION 2: The Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness is hereby authorized to undertake any activity authorized by law which he deems appropriate in response to this declaration.

SECTION 3: All departments, commissions, boards, agencies and officers of the State, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions the State may take in response to the effects of this severe weather event.

SECTION 4: This order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect from Saturday, March 31, 2018 until Sunday, April 29, 2018, unless terminated sooner.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 29th day of March, 2018.

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY
OF STATE**

SECRETARY OF STATE