

Executive Order No. 2018-42

State of Emergency Due to Major Disaster and Aftermath of Hurricane Florence

WHEREAS, due to the effects of Hurricane Florence, on September 16, 2018, the President of the United States of America issued a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of South Carolina, amending it on September 21, 2018, to include Individual Assistance and Public Assistance for various counties, with additional counties to be added; and

WHEREAS, damage from downed trees, other debris and flooding has caused more than 225 road and bridge closures, damage to more than 390 homes, and displaced more than 37,600 people; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Florence brought 10 to 18 inches of rain in areas of South Carolina saturating the ground and flooding the rivers, and more flooding is expected through next week as water flows downstream through the Waccamaw River, the Little Pee Dee River, the Great Pee Dee River, and the Lynches River, ultimately converging and emptying into Winyah Bay; and

WHEREAS, river levels are already at flood state and expected to exceed flood state by 3.49 to 16.6 feet, with flood states continuing through October 1, 2018; and

WHEREAS, residents have evacuated from these areas, and evacuations are still occurring, for some residents and healthcare facilities; and

WHEREAS, the State continues to support counties or local governments in response and recovery operations, fulfilling more than 1238 requests for additional resources or assistance to address infrastructure, public safety, and public health concerns; and

WHEREAS, while local, state, and federal officials continue to conduct damage assessments throughout the central and coastal areas, there are parts of the state still conducting evacuations and life safety operations; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to maintain the activation of the National Guard and other state emergency operations to support the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the State of South Carolina and pursuant to the Constitution and Laws of this State and the powers conferred upon me therein, effective September 24, 2018, I hereby declare that a State of Emergency exists in South Carolina. I direct that the South Carolina Emergency Operations Plan be placed into effect. I direct that all prudent preparations be taken at the individual, local, and state levels to protect against the possible effects of Hurricane Florence.

FURTHER, I hereby place specified units and/or personnel of the South Carolina National Guard on State Active Duty, pursuant to my authority under section 25-1-1840 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, and I will do so by directing the Adjutant General to issue supplemental orders. I further order the activation of South Carolina National Guard personnel and the utilization of appropriate equipment at the discretion of the Adjutant General, in coordination with the Director of the South Carolina Emergency Management Division, to take necessary and prudent actions to assist the citizens of this State.

I also order Dual Status Command to allow the Adjutant General or his designee to serve as commander over both federal (Title 10) and state forces (National Guard in Title 32 and/or State Active Duty status) as necessary.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all licensing and registration requirements regarding private security personnel or companies who are contracted with South Carolina security companies in protecting property and restoring essential services in South Carolina be suspended, and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (“SLED”) shall initiate an emergency registration process for those personnel or companies for a period specified, and in a manner deemed appropriate, by the Chief of SLED.

I also note that the prohibitions against price gouging stated in section 39-5-145 of the South Carolina Code of Laws are in effect due to the State of Emergency.

This Order shall take effect immediately. Further proclamations and directives deemed necessary to ensure the fullest protection of life and property during this State of Emergency shall be issued orally by me and thereafter reduced to writing within the succeeding 24-hour period. This State of Emergency shall remain in effect until rescinded or otherwise amended.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF SOUTH
CAROLINA, THIS 24th DAY OF
SEPTEMBER, 2018.**

**HENRY MCMASTER
Governor**