

What is a State of Emergency?

A State of Emergency allows state agencies to perform actions, that normally would not be permitted, in the interest of quickly getting assistance to local governments, and in turn to Virginia's residents.



A STATE OF EMERGENCY FROM THE GOVERNOR CAN:

- » Be designated to specific areas or localities, or it can be a statewide declaration.
- » Affect state agencies that have an active role in disaster response.
- » Be given verbally, with the written Executive Order to follow days later.
- » Stay in effect for a year or more and covers residual projects and repair costs stemming from the emergency.
- » Implement the Commonwealth of Virginia Emergency Operations Plan (COVEOP) and allow state agencies to take extraordinary measures to assist local governments and deal with the emergency.
- » Serve as the mechanism for activating the Virginia National Guard for state service.
- » Provide liability coverage for volunteers and private entities assisting in local or state response efforts.

A STATE OF EMERGENCY FROM THE GOVERNOR IS NOT:

- » An emergency evacuation order.
- » A restriction on the sale or provision of goods or services.
- » A directive to close school systems.
- » An instruction to automatically grant leave to state employees. State employees should contact their agency's human resources department or the Virginia Department of Human Resource Management (DHRM).
- » An official order or instruction for citizens or businesses to take any particular action.

Example of a Gubernatorial Declaration: *The health and general welfare of the citizens require state action to help alleviate the conditions caused by this situation. The effects of this situation constitute a disaster wherein human life and public and private property are, or are likely to be, imperiled, as described in § 44-146.16 of the Code of Virginia.*

Therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me by § 44-146.17 of the Code of Virginia, as Governor and as Director of Emergency Management, and by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article V, Section 7 of the Constitution of Virginia and by § 44-75.1 of the Code of Virginia, as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces of the Commonwealth, and subject always to my continuing and ultimate authority and responsibility to act in such matters, I hereby proclaim a state of emergency.