



**SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**

**FILED**  
INDEX DEPARTMENT

**AUG 18 2026**

IN THE OFFICE OF  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**GUBERNATORIAL DISASTER PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois has experienced record-breaking weather patterns of severe storms generating tornadoes, heavy rainfall, flash flooding, hail, and straight-line winds that have caused widespread damage and destruction; and,

WHEREAS, in 2026, the State of Illinois has led the nation in tornadoes with an approximate 204 tornadoes thus far verified by the National Weather Service; and,

WHEREAS, Marshall County suffered severe weather events that produced on May 16, 2026, damaging straight-line winds with wind gusts in excess of 90 miles per hour; June 10-11, 2026, a tornado, with hail up to 1.75 inches in diameter, and widespread damaging wind gusts of 60 to 70 miles per hour; June 11, 2026, a tornado that damaged homes and infrastructure and caused electrical power outages affecting approximately 53 percent of the County; and June 19, 2026 through on or about June 29, 2026, extreme rainfall resulting in the Illinois River at Henry exceeding flood stage. On July 11, 2026, Marshall County issued a Proclamation and Declaration of Local Disaster for the severe weather events of March through June 2026; and,

WHEREAS, from July 2-4, 2026, there were four separate rounds of severe storms across northern Illinois. Intense rainfall in Kane County caused a culvert at Duffin Drain, a tributary of Welch Creek in the Big Rock Creek Watershed, to fail; and,

WHEREAS, from July 9-11, 2026, heavy rainfall, upwards of 6-8 inches of water within a few hours, caused flash flooding in Alexander and Pulaski Counties; and,

WHEREAS, on July 27, 2026, intense supercell thunderstorms produced several confirmed tornadoes, extensive straight-line wind damage, and damaging hail. Municipalities in southern Cook County and eastern Will County were among the hardest hit areas and experienced 80-105 mph wind gusts that led to substantial tree and structural damage. Central, eastern, and southeastern DuPage County experienced significant straight-line wind damage and Lake County suffered widespread damage with destructive winds, large hail, and torrential downpours during a second round of storms. In addition, a tornado produced by the long-lived supercell thunderstorms touched down near Hoopeston in Vermilion County; and,

WHEREAS, the counties of Champaign, Cook, DuPage, LaSalle, and Will suffered significant damage from a derecho that produced 70-100+ straight-line winds and severe storms that produced multiple tornadoes that moved across the Midwest and Ohio River Valley August 9-11, 2026; and,

WHEREAS, between August 13-16, 2026, the counties of Champaign, Ford, Fulton, McLean, Tazewell, and Vermilion experienced severe storms that caused extensive rainfall and widespread damage including downed trees, power outages, and structural damage; and,

WHEREAS, emergency measures and resources have been required across Illinois and in particular in the Counties of Marshall, Kane, Alexander, Pulaski, Cook,

Will, DuPage, Lake, Vermilion, Champaign, LaSalle, Ford, Fulton, McLean, and Tazewell to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the people in the affected communities; and, these communities continue recovering from these devastating tornadoes and severe storms and will do so for the foreseeable future; and,

WHEREAS, local resources and capabilities in the affected counties and communities have been exhausted, and State resources are needed to assist responding to and recovering from the effects of this disaster including protecting public health and safety and lessening or averting the threats of more severe and lasting harm; and,

WHEREAS, these conditions provide legal justification under section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act for the issuance of a proclamation of disaster.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, pursuant to the executive authority vested in me by the Illinois Constitution and laws, and in the interest of aiding the people of Illinois and the local governments responsible for ensuring public health and safety, 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 each of these counties a disaster area: Alexander, Champaign, Cook, DuPage, Ford, Fulton, Kane, LaSalle, Lake, McLean, Marshall, Pulaski, Tazewell, Vermilion, and Will.

Section 2: IEMA-OHS is directed to continue implementation of the State Emergency Operations Plan and coordinate State resources to support local governments in disaster response and recovery operations.

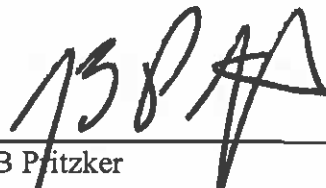
Section 3: The Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity shall assist local governments with response and recovery efforts as appropriate. All other State agencies are directed to collaborate with IEMA-OHS to identify and enable capabilities for disaster response and recovery activities.

Section 4: 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, Joint Purchasing Act, and State Property Control Act that would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with the disaster are suspended to the extent they are not required by federal law.

Section 5: To aid with disposal of debris caused by these severe storms, including but not limited to the use of incineration devices, all statutory and regulatory provisions that require permitting or licensing that in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with the disaster are suspended to the extent they are not required by federal law.

Section 6: This proclamation can facilitate requests for federal and State disaster assistance as identified by the State agencies. To aid with recovery efforts, provisions of the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) and regulations promulgated thereunder that in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with the disaster, are suspended to the extent they are not required by federal law.

Section 7: This proclamation shall be effective immediately and remain in effect for 30 days.

  
JB Pritzker  
Governor

Date: August 18, 2026

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