



FILED
INDEX DEPARTMENT
OCT 13 2026

IN THE OFFICE OF
SECRETARY OF STATE

GUBERNATORIAL DISASTER PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, throughout this year, 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 212 tornadoes thus far verified by the National Weather Service; and,

WHEREAS, with the aid of State resources and mutual aid partners, Cook County continues the recovery process from the severe storms and tornadoes, including but not limited to the removal of debris; and,

WHEREAS, local resources and capabilities in Cook County and the affected communities have been exhausted, and State resources are needed to assist responding to and recovering from the effects of these storms 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 continues to exist within the State of Illinois and specifically declare Cook County a disaster area.

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: In accordance with 15 ILCS 30/3, the Governor's Office of Management and Budget (GOMB) and IEMA-OHS are hereby authorized to draw upon the Disaster Response and Recovery Fund in order to provide necessary services to respond, provided that all public agencies responding to this emergency must first spend any funds specifically appropriated to it for disaster relief or response.

Section 8: This proclamation shall be effective immediately and remain in effect for 30 days.


JB Pritzker
Governor

Date: October 13, 2026

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