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STATE OF INDIANA  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
INDIANAPOLIS

**EXECUTIVE ORDER: 23-03**

**FOR: DECLARING A DISASTER EMERGENCY IN BENTON, MONROE, MORGAN, OWEN, AND WHITE COUNTIES DUE TO SEVERE WEATHER, TORNADIC ACTIVITY, AND FLOODING**

TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETINGS:

**WHEREAS**, Indiana Code § 10-14-3-12 provides that the Governor shall declare a disaster emergency by executive order if he determines a disaster involving widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property has occurred or that the occurrence or threat of a disaster is imminent;

**WHEREAS**, beginning on March 31, 2023 and continuing into the next day, severe weather, tornadic activity, and flooding caused widespread damage in certain counties throughout the State of Indiana;

**WHEREAS**, damaging winds during these severe storms have: closed or damaged county, state, and federal roads; downed trees and power lines, causing the loss of power; damaged homes, businesses, buildings, bridges, and other infrastructure; and, tragically, resulted in the loss of life and serious injuries;

**WHEREAS**, in response to these severe storms, I issued an executive order, on April 1, 2023, declaring that a disaster emergency exists in Johnson & Sullivan counties; and

**WHEREAS**, based on additional reports of severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property received, it is necessary to declare that a state of disaster emergency exists in other counties as well, as follows: Benton, Monroe, Morgan, Owen, and White;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Eric J. Holcomb**, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby:

**DECLARE** that a state of disaster emergency also exists in Benton, Monroe, Morgan, Owen, and White counties, which is effective immediately, and, pursuant to Indiana Code § 10-14-3-12, shall continue for thirty (30) days;

**ORDER** the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) and its Executive Director, having already begun implementation of the State Emergency Plan, to enlist the support of such other state agencies as are needed and also to provide needed emergency services to the counties mentioned in this executive order that have been impacted by the severe weather, tornadic activity, and flooding;

**ORDER** the IDHS Executive Director to coordinate any and all necessary assistance with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies.

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF**, I, Eric J. Holcomb, have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Indiana, on this 4th day of April, 2023.

Eric J. Holcomb  
Governor of Indiana

SEAL

ATTEST: Diego Morales  
Secretary of State

*Posted: 04/12/2023 by Legislative Services Agency*  
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