

# STATE OF INDIANA

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT INDIANAPOLIS

EXECUTIVE ORDER 26-08

FOR: **DECLARING A DISASTER EMERGENCY IN JASPER, NEWTON, AND STARKE COUNTIES DUE TO SEVERE WEATHER AND TORNADIC ACTIVITY**

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 that 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, on March 10, 2026, severe weather and tornadic activity caused widespread and severe damage throughout Jasper, Newton, and Starke counties; and

WHEREAS, the severe weather has resulted in damage and destruction of homes, businesses, infrastructure, and other structures; loss of power; downing of trees and power lines; injury; and the tragic loss of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Braun, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby:

1. Declare a state of disaster emergency exists in Jasper, Newton, and Starke counties, which shall be effective immediately and, pursuant to Indiana Code § 10-14-3-12, shall continue for a period of thirty (30) days;
2. Find that state assistance is necessary to supplement local resources to respond to this disaster and authorize individual assistance under the State Disaster Relief Fund for eligible individuals;
3. Direct the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) to coordinate the state's emergency response efforts, including preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation activities related to this disaster emergency; and
4. Order all executive branch agencies to provide assistance, resources, and personnel as requested by the IDHS to support emergency operations and ensure public safety.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, Mike Braun, have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Indiana, on this 12th day of March, 2026.

*Mike Braun*

Mike Braun  
Governor of Indiana

ATTEST: Diego Morales  
Secretary of State

*Diego Morales*