

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 16-56

(Emergency Management – Amending Executive Order 16-54)

WHEREAS, during the afternoon hours of February 15, 2016, an EF-3 tornado with estimated peak winds of 152 miles per hour traveled across portions of northern Escambia County; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service reported that the EF-3 tornado directly impacted the town of Century in Escambia County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service’s damage survey indicates that: “Numerous homes were damaged or destroyed. A couple of homes experienced [the] complete loss of the roof with only the walls of the small interior rooms remaining...Extensive tree damage with numerous softwood and hardwood trees either uprooted or snapped. Several power poles were also snapped”; and

WHEREAS, the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners declared a local state of emergency on February 18, 2016; and

WHEREAS, during the late night hours of February 23 and early morning hours of February 24, 2016, a powerful storm system brought severe weather to the Florida Panhandle; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service issued numerous tornado warnings and tornado watches throughout the Florida Panhandle, to include a Particularly Dangerous Situation warning for Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa Counties; and

WHEREAS, a tornado of unconfirmed strength impacted Escambia County, to include metropolitan areas of Pensacola; and

WHEREAS, strong winds from the storm damaged a significant number of structures in both Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties; and

WHEREAS, as Governor, I am responsible to meet the dangers presented to this state and its people by this emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RICK SCOTT, as Governor of Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Article IV, Section 1(a) of the Florida Constitution and by the Florida Emergency Management Act, as amended, and all other applicable laws, promulgate the following Executive Order, to take immediate effect:

Section 1. Because of the foregoing conditions, I declare that a state of emergency exists in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties.

Section 2. I designate the Director of the Division of Emergency Management as the State Coordinating Officer for the duration of this emergency and direct him to execute the State's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and other response, recovery, and mitigation plans necessary to cope with the emergency. Pursuant to section 252.36(1)(a), Florida Statutes, I delegate to the State Coordinating Officer the authority to exercise those powers delineated in sections 252.36(5)–(10), Florida Statutes, which he shall exercise as needed to meet this emergency, subject to the limitations of section 252.33, Florida Statutes. In exercising the powers delegated by this Order, the State Coordinating Officer shall confer with the Governor to the fullest extent practicable. The State Coordinating Officer shall also have the authority to:

A. Invoke and administer the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (“EMAC”) (sections 252.921-.933, Florida Statutes) and other compacts and agreements existing between the State of Florida and other states, and the further authority to coordinate the allocation of resources from such other states that are made available to Florida under such compacts and agreements so as best to meet this emergency.

B. Seek direct assistance and enter into agreements with any and all agencies of the United States Government as may be needed to meet the emergency.

C. Direct all state, regional and local governmental agencies, including law enforcement agencies, to identify personnel needed from those agencies to assist in meeting the needs created by this emergency, and to place all such personnel under the direct command and coordination of the State Coordinating Officer to meet this emergency.

D. Designate Deputy State Coordinating Officers.

The State Coordinating Officer shall have the authority to enter such orders as may be needed to implement any of the foregoing powers.

Section 3. All State agencies entering emergency final orders or other final actions in response to this emergency shall advise the State Coordinating Officer contemporaneously or as soon as practicable.

Section 4. All actions taken by the Director of the Division of Emergency Management with respect to this emergency before the issuance of this Executive Order are ratified. This Executive Order shall expire 60 days from this date unless extended.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed, at Tallahassee, this 24th day of February, 2016.



[Handwritten Signature]
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:
[Handwritten Signature]
SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA