

# STATE OF FLORIDA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 22-17

(Emergency Management – Tornadoes in Charlotte and Lee Counties)

**WHEREAS**, during the early morning hours of January 16, 2022, a severe weather system impacted portions of Southwest Florida generating heavy rain, thunderstorms, strong straight-line winds, and two confirmed tornadoes of EF-1 and EF-2 strengths resulting in widespread power outages and damage in Charlotte and Lee Counties displacing at least 300 individuals from their homes; and

**WHEREAS**, a State of Emergency is hereby necessary for the limited purpose of receiving assistance for the impacted areas and residences.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS**, 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 Charlotte and Lee Counties.

Section 2. I designate the Director of the Division of Emergency Management (“Director”) 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(6)-(12), 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 Executive 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. Direct all state, regional, and local governmental agencies, to identify personnel needed from those agencies to assist in meeting the response, recovery, and mitigation 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.

B. Direct the actions of any state agency as necessary to implement the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Disaster Recovery Framework.

C. Suspend the effect of any statute, rule, or order that would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay any mitigation, response, or recovery action necessary to cope with this emergency. In accordance with section 252.3611(1), Florida Statutes, any such order, declaration, or other action shall specify each statute or rule being amended or waived, if applicable, and the expiration date for the order or action.

D. Enter orders as necessary to implement any of the foregoing powers; however, the requirements of section 120.54(4), Florida Statutes, do not apply to any such orders issued by the State Coordinating Officer. No such order shall remain in effect beyond the expiration of this Executive Order, including any extension thereof.

Section 3. I find that the special duties and responsibilities resting upon some State, regional, and local agencies and other governmental bodies in responding to this emergency may require them to suspend or waive certain statutes, rules, ordinances, and orders they administer.

Section 4. All actions taken by the Director of the Division of Emergency Management as the State Coordinating Officer with respect to this emergency before the issuance of this Executive Order are ratified, and he is directed to continue to execute the State of Florida Comprehensive

Emergency Management Plan and other response, recovery, and mitigation plans necessary to cope with this emergency.

Section 5. This Executive Order is effective immediately and shall expire sixty (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 21<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2022.

  
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RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

  
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SECRETARY OF STATE

2022 JAN 21 PM 5:03  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FL

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