

**STATE OF MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 2-2017**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER PROCLAIMING A STATE OF EMERGENCY TO EXIST ON
THE BLACKFEET NATION AND IN GLACIER AND LINCOLN COUNTIES WITHIN
THE STATE OF MONTANA**

WHEREAS, beginning on February 3, 2017, a large, slow-moving winter weather system produced very heavy amounts of heavy snow over most of Northwestern Montana including the Continental Divide;

WHEREAS, snowfall amounts in East Glacier, Many Glacier, and Saint Mary exceeded previously held records maintained by the National Weather Service;

WHEREAS, the heavy snow fall created extraordinary conditions related to opening and maintaining state, county, local and tribal roadways for vehicular travel and forced the closure of railway operations in Flathead and Glacier Counties due to recurring avalanches;

WHEREAS, all available city, county, and tribal equipment and personnel have been committed to snow removal efforts, and some jurisdictions have contracted with private citizens to provided equipment in support of the life safety missions;

WHEREAS, the Blackfeet Nation and Counties of Glacier and Lincoln have enacted emergency declarations and activated applicable portions of jurisdictional emergency plans and programs;

WHEREAS, on February 5, 2017, I executed the State Emergency Management Plan with the activation of the State Emergency Coordination Center to a level four;

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service has predicted high winds for areas east of the Continental Divide including the Blackfeet Nation and Glacier County beginning on February 9, 2017;

WHEREAS, these high winds may cause near-blizzard conditions including poor roadway visibility and large snowdrifts and will likely impact the ability of jurisdictions to maintain roadways;

WHEREAS, the immediate need for snow removal for emergency response is essential to ensure the health, safety and welfare of residents and stranded travelers and provides for access to critical community infrastructure including hospitals, food and energy suppliers, schools and local government offices and public safety operations;

WHEREAS, the availability and utilization of all necessary state government services, equipment and supplies under this proclamation will further the efforts to protect health and safety and to preserve the lives, property and resources of the people of the State of Montana; and

WHEREAS, under these conditions, pursuant to 10-3-302, 10-3-311 and 10-3-312, MCA, the Governor may mobilize state resources and the Montana National Guard to protect life, health, and property and may expend funds to meet contingencies and needs that may arise from the emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEVE BULLOCK, Governor of the State of Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, Title 10, Chapter 3, Mont. Code Ann., and under other applicable statutes, do hereby declare an emergency to exist within the State of Montana, specifically including the Blackfeet Nation and the counties of Glacier and Lincoln as defined in Mont. Code Ann. § 10-3-103 and 10-3-302.

This Order is effective retroactively to February 3, 2017.

GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana, this 8th day of February 2017.



STEVE BULLOCK, Governor

Attest:


COREY STAPLETON, Secretary of State

BY JEFFREY HINDSUN, DEPUTY