



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

Doug Burgum
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2017-14

WHEREAS, on July 20 and 21, 2017, a series of severe thunderstorms in western North Dakota, causing damage to electrical infrastructure, farmsteads and ranches and

WHEREAS, these thunderstorms produced large hail and gusty winds of up to 73 miles per hour (mph) that toppled power lines and caused significant damage to farm and ranch buildings, endangering livestock and damaging or destroying equipment; and

WHEREAS, extensive storm damages are compounding problems for farmers and ranchers who reside in the western North Dakota Counties of Bowman, Dunn and Slope, where producers are expected to suffer major losses as a result of extreme (D3) or exceptional (D4) drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, gusty winds sheared power lines, blocked emergency traffic and endangered the lives of residents, particularly those dependent upon electricity for medical equipment; and

WHEREAS, the thunderstorms caused substantial infrastructure damage at exorbitant cost to member-owned Rural Electric Cooperatives (RECs) that provide residential and commercial electricity to many rural North Dakota residents and business operations; and

WHEREAS, lightning storms on July 20, 2017 was contributing factor to a series of wildland fires, creating additional stress on volunteer firefighters, already exhausted from working extended hours to battle an exponential growth in this summer's blazes; and

WHEREAS, additional severe summer thunderstorms will continue to threaten our communities and aggravate existing drought conditions.

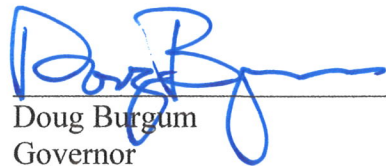
NOW THEREFORE, Doug Burgum, Governor of the State of North Dakota, hereby declares a severe summer storm disaster for Bowman, Dunn and Slope Counties. All state agencies and administrators shall maintain response and recovery resources and capabilities at high levels of readiness in order to execute their responsibilities pursuant to the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP). State officials shall coordinate with appropriate federal agencies to make recovery programs available to alleviate hardships, and implement recovery actions and future mitigation measures to limit the hardships and impact of this disaster, and facilitate restoration of services and infrastructure.

This order is issued upon the following authority and for the following reasons:

1. The Governor is vested with the executive authority pursuant to Article V, Section 1, of the North Dakota Constitution.
2. The Governor is vested with statutory authority to issue executive orders, minimize or avert the effects of a disaster or emergency pursuant to Chapter 37-17.1 of the North Dakota Century Code.
3. A coordinated and effective effort of appropriate government departments is required to minimize the impact of emergencies and disasters in this state.
4. A severe summer storm disaster exists within the State of North Dakota.

This order shall take effect immediately, and remain in effect until it is rescinded.

Executed at Bismarck, North Dakota, this 17th day of August, 2017.



Doug Burgum
Governor

ATTEST:



Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State