

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
EXECUTIVE ORDER 2026-01

**Whereas**, The State of South Dakota was impacted by a severe winter windstorm beginning on December 17, 2025, that brought widespread winds exceeding 100 mph; and,

**Whereas**, The storm caused widespread debris and infrastructure damage that interrupted the normal flow of traffic and caused roads to be impassable; and,

**Whereas**, This storm caused widespread power outages to thousands of residents and power officials have worked tirelessly on restoration of power; and,

**Whereas**, Local and state government have been working diligently to clean up debris to ensure the safety of the public; and,

**Whereas**, The estimated damages to public infrastructure have exceeded the thresholds required for federal public disaster assistance:

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LARRY RHODEN**, Governor of the State of South Dakota, under provisions of SDCL chapter 34-48A, otherwise known as the Emergency Management law, do hereby declare a state of emergency to exist in South Dakota.

**IT IS FURTHER DECLARED**, That technical resources available to state government will be utilized under coordination of the Department of Public Safety, Office of Emergency Management, in support of local governments to restore normal travel conditions and emergency services.

Dated in Pierre, South Dakota, this 7th day of January, 2026.



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Larry Rhoden  
Governor of South Dakota

ATTEST:

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Monae L. Johnson  
Secretary of State