



The State of Maryland
Executive Department

EXECUTIVE ORDER
01.01.2026.04

Declaration of a State of Preparedness - Winter Storm

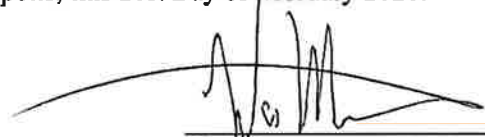
- WHEREAS, The State of Maryland is subject to a variety of hazards and disasters, including an impending emergency as defined in Section 14-101(c) of the Public Safety Article of the Maryland Code;
- WHEREAS, Pursuant to Executive Order 01.01.2023.20, the Governor may declare a State of Preparedness when he determines that there is a significant risk of a public emergency as defined in the Maryland Emergency Management Act, Md. Code, Public Safety Article§ 14-301;
- WHEREAS, The declaration of a State of Preparedness ensures a proactive, collaborative and forward-leaning State response to potential or actual emergencies;
- WHEREAS, Having been advised and informed by the Maryland Department of Emergency Management that that there is significant risk of snow in all areas of Maryland beginning Sunday, February 22, 2026 as a result of an impactful winter storm;
- WHEREAS, Action is needed to prepare to protect the lives and property of Maryland residents and visitors that may be impacted by the winter storm;
- WHEREAS, Transportation, power utility, water utility, and other critical infrastructures may be negatively affected by the impact of the winter storm;
- WHEREAS, State and local government agencies may require additional resources and support to implement proactive actions and meet the public safety and welfare needs of Maryland residents who may be negatively impacted by the storm;

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO TITLE 14 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE OF THE MARYLAND CODE, AND BASED ON THE ABOVE FINDINGS, HEREBY DECLARE THAT A STATE OF PREPAREDNESS EXISTS IN THE STATE AND THAT PREPARATIONS MUST BE MADE FOR THE ANTICIPATED SEVERE WEATHER, AND HEREBY PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

- A. The Maryland Department of Emergency Management is hereby directed to coordinate the State preparedness and response to impacts of the winter storm anticipated to begin on Sunday, February 22, 2026.
- B. All other appropriate State authorities are hereby authorized to activate their emergency preparedness plans and engage, deploy, use, and coordinate available resources in furtherance of those plans.

GIVEN Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, in the City of Annapolis, this 21st Day of February 2026.



Wes Moore
Governor

ATTEST:



Susan C. Lee
Secretary of State

