WHEREAS, on October 11, 2016, the President of the United States of America issued a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of South Carolina due to the effects of Hurricane Matthew, which included in certain parts of the state 6.2 feet of storm surge, 10 to 15 inches of rain, 60 to 88 miles per hour wind gusts, and river levels 1.85 to 3.89 feet above major flood stage; and

WHEREAS, damage from downed trees, other debris, and flooding has caused more than 481 road and bridge closures, more than 861,000 power outages, and damage to more than 1,800 homes, approximately 675 of which are uninhabitable; and

WHEREAS, the State continues to support counties or local governments in response and recovery operations, fulfilling more than 790 requests for additional resources or assistance to address infrastructure, public safety, and public health concerns; and

WHEREAS, while local, state, and federal officials continue to conduct damage assessments throughout the central and coastal areas, there are parts of the state still conducting limited evacuations and life safety operations, especially within the river basins of the Pee Dee region; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to maintain the activation of the National Guard and other state emergency operations to support the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me as Governor, pursuant to the Constitution and Statutes of the State of South Carolina, effective at 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, October 19, 2016, I hereby declare that a State of Emergency exists in South Carolina. I direct that the South Carolina Emergency Operations Plan be placed into effect. I further direct that all prudent measures be taken at the individual, local, and state levels to protect against the ongoing effects of Hurricane Matthew.
FURTHER, I hereby place specified units and/or personnel of the South Carolina National Guard on State Active Duty pursuant to my authority under Section 25-1-1840 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and I will do so by directing the Adjutant General to issue supplemental orders. I further order the activation of the South Carolina National Guard personnel and utilization of appropriate equipment at the discretion of the Adjutant General and in coordination with the Director of the South Carolina Emergency Management Division, to take necessary and prudent actions to assist the citizens of this state.

I also order Dual Status Command to allow the Adjutant General or his designee to serve as commander over both federal (Title 10) and state forces (National Guard in Title 32 and/or State Active Duty status) as necessary.

I further order that all licensing and registration requirements regarding private security personnel or companies who are contracted with South Carolina security companies in protecting property and restoring essential services in South Carolina be suspended, and State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) shall initiate an emergency registration process for those personnel or companies for a period specified, and in a manner deemed appropriate, by the Chief of SLED.

I also note that the prohibitions against price gouging stated in Section 39-5-145 of the South Carolina Code of Laws are in effect due to the State of Emergency.

Further proclamations and regulations deemed necessary to insure the fullest protection of life and property during this state of emergency shall be issued orally by me and thereafter reduced to writing within the succeeding 24-hour period.


NIKKI R. HALEY
Governor

ATTEST:

MARK HAMMOND
Secretary of State