

Executive Order No. 2018-48

**State of Emergency Due to Flooding and Potential
Effects of Hurricane Michael**

WHEREAS, Hurricane Florence came ashore in North Carolina on September 14, 2018, and continued into South Carolina with heavy rainfall that created flash flooding throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, the water flowing through the river system from North Carolina impacted South Carolina further, creating swollen river banks and additional flooding in the State even after the storm had ended; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2018, the President of the United States of America issued a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of South Carolina, amending it more than once to include Individual Assistance and Public Assistance for various counties, with additional counties to be added; and

WHEREAS, while Hurricane Florence has passed and the flooding in the rivers has subsided, the flood waters remain and have not receded in portions of Horry County and Marion County; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the flood waters, the State still has one shelter open and volunteer organizations are providing food for those effected by the flood at separate sites; and

WHEREAS, damage from downed trees, other debris and flooding has left road closures on primary and secondary routes, with approximately 49 roads and 24 bridges still closed; and

WHEREAS, the State continues to support counties and local governments in recovery operations, providing resources and assistance to address infrastructure, public safety, and public health concerns; and

WHEREAS, the flooding and structural damage have created a significant threat to the State of South Carolina and requires that the State continues to take protect and preserve property, critical infrastructure, communities, and the general safety and welfare of the people of this State, to include maintaining the activation of the National Guard and other state emergency operations to support the health, safety, and welfare of the public; and

WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing circumstances, the continued effects of Hurricane Florence, and the ongoing recovery efforts related to the same, the undersigned issued Executive Order 2018-47 on October 8, 2018, waiving or suspending certain rules and regulations that establish registration, permitting, length, width, weight, and load requirements for commercial vehicles supplying materials to residential and commercial establishments during and after an emergency so that the delivery does not threaten the public welfare, acting as a result of the declared emergencies and in the State of South Carolina and the State of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Weather Service, the majority of the State of South Carolina is within the National Hurricane Center's Track Forecast Cone and the National Hurricane Center has determined that the State of South Carolina may be impacted by Hurricane Michael, which continues to develop and strengthen in the Gulf of Mexico and is projected to make landfall on the coastline of the State of Florida and proceed inland on a northeastern track; and

WHEREAS, as the State still has flood waters that have not receded and heavy rain and winds from approaching Hurricane Michael may impact the State, the undersigned has been advised that the current flood waters and potential increased rain from the approaching storm pose a significant threat to the

State of South Carolina and require that the State take timely precautions to protect and preserve property, critical infrastructure, communities, and the general safety and welfare of the people of this State.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of South Carolina and pursuant to the Constitution and Laws of this State and the powers conferred upon me therein, I hereby declare that a State of Emergency exists in South Carolina due to the current flood waters, saturated ground, and potential for heavy rain and further impact that may occur as a result of Hurricane Michael. I direct that the South Carolina Emergency Management Division place the South Carolina Emergency Operations Plan into effect as needed. I direct that all prudent preparations be taken at the individual, local, and state levels to protect against the possible effects of Hurricane Michael as needed.

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, as amended, and I will do so by directing the Adjutant General to issue supplemental orders. I further order the activation of South Carolina National Guard personnel and the utilization of appropriate equipment at the discretion of the Adjutant General, 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.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, if needed, 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 the South Carolina 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 created by the flood waters and potential for additional effects due to approaching Hurricane Michael.

This Order shall take effect immediately. Further proclamations and directives deemed necessary to ensure 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. This State of Emergency shall remain in effect for fifteen (15) days unless rescinded, superseded, or otherwise amended by subsequent Executive Order.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF SOUTH
CAROLINA, THIS 9th DAY OF OCTOBER,
2018.**

**HENRY MCMASTER
Governor**