
EXECUTIVE ORDER PROCLAIMING A STATE OF EMERGENCY
TO EXIST ON THE BLACKFEET RESERVATION

WHEREAS, cold temperatures, high winds and drifting snow have combined to create severe winter storm conditions; and

WHEREAS, blizzards and drifting snow have caused road closures, disruption of essential services, power outages, and other serious problems on and around the reservation; and

WHEREAS, these severe winter conditions have caused life threatening situations and imminent threat to property, lack of immediate medical care and food shortages; and

WHEREAS, the Blackfeet Tribal Council has passed an Executive Resolution #43-91 declaring a state of emergency to exist on the Blackfeet Reservation and has sought federal assistance through the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the county of Glacier and the City of Browning have requested state assistance in addressing this unexpected severe winter storm and has found the emergency is beyond the financial capability of the county; and

WHEREAS, a finding of a state of emergency authorizes the Governor to activate such services of the State of Montana, including the Montana National Guard, to protect life, health and property and authorizes the Governor under Section 10-3-311, MCA, to expend funds from the general fund to meet contingencies and needs arising from an emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STAN STEPHENS, Governor of the State of Montana, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, Title 10, Chapter 3, M.C.A. and other applicable statutes, do hereby declare that a state of emergency exists in the city of Browning and the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and lands affected by this winter storm.

1. I direct that county and state authorities immediately address life-threatening situations and alleviate property

damage wherever possible through coordinated efforts of the joint governments; and

2. I direct that major transportation routes utilized for necessary and imperative travel be made accessible through cooperative efforts of state and county officials, including the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and
3. I direct that such necessary machinery and equipment of various departments of state government, including the Department of Highways and the Montana National Guard, be utilized in an effort to secure safe travel and immediate medical needs of people affected by this winter storm; and
4. I direct these efforts be coordinated through the State Disaster and Emergency Services Division, which shall maintain constant contact with government officials of the Tribal Council, Bureau of Indian Affairs, the City of Browning and the respective county commissions of Glacier and Pondera Counties; and
5. I join with the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council in urging the Bureau of Indian Affairs office and other federal offices, including Montana's Congressional delegation, to seek and secure such necessary federal funds as are necessary to respond to the emergency conditions existing on the reservation.

This Order is effective immediately.

GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana this 7th day of December, in the year of our LORD, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety.

Stan Stephens

STAN STEPHENS
Governor

ATTEST:

Mike Cooney
MIKE COONEY, Secretary of State