

**STATE OF MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 5-2018**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY TO EXIST ON THE
BLACKFEET RESERVATION, THE FORT BELKNAP RESERVATION, THE
NORTHERN CHEYENNE RESERVATION, GLACIER COUNTY, AND GOLDEN
VALLEY COUNTY WITHIN THE STATE OF MONTANA**

WHEREAS, beginning on February 14, 2018, extreme cold and blizzard conditions have impacted most of northwestern and southeastern Montana. The extreme cold and blizzard conditions with drifting snow have created extraordinary conditions relating to opening and maintaining state, county, local, and tribal roadways for vehicular travel;

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service has predicted continued blizzard conditions and high winds for areas east of the Continental Divide including the Blackfeet Reservation, the Fort Belknap Reservation, and Glacier County. Temperatures have stayed below freezing, which has kept snow more loose instead of packed together if the temperatures had been warmer;

WHEREAS, all available city, county, and tribal equipment and personnel have been committed to conducting emergency protective measures and some jurisdictions have contracted with private citizens to provide equipment and personnel in support of life safety missions;

WHEREAS, the Blackfeet Reservation, the Fort Belknap Reservation, the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, Glacier County, and Golden Valley County have enacted emergency or disaster declarations, and activated applicable portions of jurisdictional emergency plans and programs;

WHEREAS, on February 8, 2018, I executed the Montana Emergency Response Framework with the activation of the State Emergency Coordination Center;

WHEREAS, the immediate need for emergency protective measures is essential to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of residents and stranded travelers and to provide access to critical community infrastructure including hospitals, food and energy suppliers, schools, and local government offices;

WHEREAS, the availability and utilization of all necessary state government services, equipment and suppliers under this proclamation will further the efforts to protect health and safety and to preserve the lives, property, and resources of the people of the State of Montana; and

WHEREAS, under these conditions pursuant to §§ 10-3-302, 10-3-311 and 10-3-312, MCA, the Governor may mobilize state resources and the Montana National Guard to protect life, health, and property and may expend funds up to the amount determined by the Office of Budget and

Program Planning to perform emergency protective measures and address needs that may arise from the emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEVE BULLOCK, Governor of the State of Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, Title 10, Chapter 3, MCA, and under other applicable statutes, do hereby declare an emergency to exist within the State of Montana, specifically including the Blackfeet Reservation, the Fort Belknap Reservation, the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, Glacier County, and Golden Valley County, as defined in §§ 10-3-103 and 10-3-302, MCA.

This Order is effective retroactively to February 14, 2018.



GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana this 27th day of February, 2018.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Bullock", is written over a horizontal line.

STEVE BULLOCK, Governor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Corey Stapleton", is written over a horizontal line.

COREY STAPLETON, Secretary of State