

**STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

**IN THE MATTER OF
TORNADOS AND SEVERE WEATHER
FEBRUARY 23, 2016**

AGENCY INTEREST NO. 200248

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY AND ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

Pursuant to the authority granted to me by Louisiana Revised Statutes 30:2001 *et seq.*, and particularly La. R.S. 30:2033 and 2011(D)(6), I hereby make the following findings, declaration and order:

FINDINGS AND DECLARATION

1. On February 23, 2016, a violent weather system moved across southeast Louisiana, bringing thunderstorms, heavy rain, strong straight-line winds, and tornados, and causing at least three fatalities, dozens of injuries, and widespread property damage. This weather event will be referred to herein as "the Severe Weather."
2. By State of Louisiana Proclamation No. 17 JBE 2016, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards declared on February 23, 2016, that a state of emergency exists in the parishes affected by the Severe Weather.
3. The parishes in which local government and/or the Governor has declared or declares an emergency shall constitute the specific areas covered by this Declaration of Emergency and Administrative Order (hereinafter "Order"). As of the date of this document, those parishes include Ascension, Assumption, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, and Washington. These areas shall herein be referred to as the "Emergency Areas."
4. I find that the Severe Weather has created or will create conditions that require immediate action to prevent irreparable damage to the environment and serious threats to life or safety throughout the Emergency Areas.

WHEREFORE, I hereby declare that an emergency exists, and that the following measures are necessary to prevent irreparable damage to the environment and serious threats to life or safety throughout the Emergency Areas.

ORDER

Within the Emergency Areas:

§ 1. Solid Waste Management

a. Debris resulting from the Severe Weather shall be managed in accordance with the LDEQ Comprehensive Plan for Disaster Clean-up and Debris Management ([http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/Portals/0/permits/sw/Debris%20Management%20Plan%204%208%2015%20\(3\).pdf](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/Portals/0/permits/sw/Debris%20Management%20Plan%204%208%2015%20(3).pdf)) (“the Debris Management Plan”).

b. The Debris Management Plan will govern the selection, approval, use, and closure of temporary sites for the staging and transfer of construction and demolition (C&D) debris; staging of vehicles and vessels; staging of household hazardous waste; chipping, grinding and/or burning of vegetative debris; composting of vegetative debris; staging of munitions and ordnances; staging of white goods, electronic goods and other consumer items; and recycling and beneficial use activities.

c. Uncontaminated C&D debris may be managed at a temporary staging area authorized by the LDEQ. Uncontaminated C&D debris that is mixed with other uncontaminated debris generated by the Severe Weather such as white goods or household hazardous waste, should be segregated from other solid waste prior to disposal in a permitted landfill or authorized disposal site.

d. White goods (i.e., unsalvageable air conditioners, stoves and range tops, as well as refrigerators and freezers from which food has been removed) shall be stored in an area separate from other solid wastes and shall be stored in a manner that prevents vector and odor problems. No white goods may be stored in or on any permitted landfill cells that have not undergone final closure and have not received written authorization from the LDEQ specifically allowing storage in that area. All white goods shall be removed from the storage facility or staging area and sent offsite for recycling, or recycled onsite, within ninety (90) days of initial receipt at the site.

e. Putrescible waste (e.g., rotting food that has been removed from unsalvageable refrigerators and freezers) shall be disposed of in a permitted Type II landfill.

§ 2. Hazardous Waste

Hazardous waste generated as a result of the Severe Weather must be separated from other waste generated by the Severe Weather and disposed of at a permitted hazardous waste disposal facility. Household wastes collected during this event, which are exempt from the regulatory requirements applicable to hazardous wastes, must be managed not only in an environmentally sound manner but also in accordance with the appropriate LDEQ rules and regulations governing the storage and processing of this type of waste.

§ 3. Asbestos Clean-up

The LDEQ waives the requirement for prior notification for emergency demolition or emergency cleanup of asbestos-containing material resulting from the Severe Weather. Within one (1) business day of commencing such demolition or cleanup, however, the person responsible for such work shall notify the LDEQ in writing. The notification shall be submitted on the Asbestos Notification of Demolition or Renovation Form AAC-2, which may be found at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2883/Default.aspx>. The procedures in LAC 33:III.5151 (demolition/renovation) and LAC 33:III.Chapter 27 (accreditation and training requirements) for handling asbestos-containing material shall be complied with during demolition, cleanup, transportation, and disposal, except as otherwise provided herein. Construction and demolition debris generated from residential structures of four units or less that are subject to a government-ordered demolition shall be disposed of in accordance with the Debris Management Plan, except Regulated Asbestos Containing Material (RACM) shall be disposed of in a Type I/II landfill. Burning of asbestos-containing material is prohibited.

§ 4. Special Waste (Reuse and Recycle)

Every effort should be made to minimize the disposal of reusable and recyclable material in landfills. Diversion, composting and recycling debris are priorities. Debris handlers should make every effort to properly handle and recover debris materials that have reuse value, are recyclable or the release of which into the environment would be detrimental or is prohibited, e.g. used motor oil. The Debris Management Plan provides information intended to assist operators of solid waste facilities, recycling centers, scrap metal dealer, local governments, contractors, and the general public in handling of certain debris from the emergency areas.

§5. Underground Storage Tanks

During the time that any underground storage tank (UST) system is not accessible due to conditions resulting from the Severe Weather, the owner/operator of the UST system is relieved of the requirements for release detection, corrosion protection, and inventory control. Each owner/operator shall report any suspected UST releases to the Department within twenty-four (24) hours of gaining knowledge of the suspected release, unless an emergency condition makes it impossible for the owner/operator to do so, in which case the owner/operator shall report the suspected release to the Department as soon as he/she is able. All recordkeeping requirements for inoperable systems are suspended during the time of this Order. During the time of this Order, in the areas affected by the Severe Weather, non-compliance with release detection, corrosion protection, and inventory control for UST owners and operators will not constitute non-compliance for purposes of the deductibles enumerated in La. R.S. 30:2195.10.

§ 6. Open Burning

a. The Department authorizes local governments or their agents to conduct the open burning of Severe Weather-generated trees, leaves, vines, twigs, branches, grass, and other vegetative debris, without prior notice to the Department and provided that the provisions of LAC 33:III.1109.D.6. are met, and it is consistent with the Debris Management Plan. This Order does not authorize any other outdoor burning of non-listed

debris streams. This Order does not relieve the local government or the agent from any requirement to obtain an open burning authorization from any other governmental entity empowered to grant such authorizations. Notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph, the burning of asbestos-containing materials, construction and demolition debris, solid waste (other than vegetative debris) or hazardous waste is prohibited.

b. The Department will consider, on an individual basis, requests for approval for open burning, by persons other than local governments or their agents, of Severe Weather-generated trees, leaves, vines, twigs, branches, grass, and other vegetative debris. Any such burning approved by the Department must be conducted in compliance with the requirements of LAC 33:III.1109.D.6.

§7. General Conditions

a. This Order does not convey any property rights or any rights or privileges other than those specified in this Order.

b. This Order only serves as relief for the duration of the Order from the regulatory and proprietary requirements of the LDEQ, and does not provide relief from the requirements of other federal, state, and local agencies. This Order therefore does not negate the need for the property owner or facility operator to obtain any other required permits or authorizations, nor from the need to comply with all the requirements of those agencies.

§ 8. General Limitations

The LDEQ issues this Order solely to address the emergency created by the Severe Weather. This Order shall not be construed to authorize any activity within the jurisdiction of the LDEQ except in accordance with the express terms of this Order. Under no circumstances shall anything contained in this Order be construed to authorize the repair, replacement, or reconstruction of any type of unauthorized or illegal structure, habitable or otherwise.

§9. Other Authorizations Required

Nothing in this Order shall eliminate the necessity for obtaining any federal, state, or local permits or other authorizations that may be required.

§10. Completion of Authorized Activities

All activities authorized under this Order must be commenced before the expiration of this Order unless otherwise provided in an authorization or permit. The deadline for commencement under any authorization or permit issued under this order may be extended on a showing that contractors or supplies are not available to commence the work, or if additional time is needed to obtain any required authorization from FEMA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or other local, state, or federal agencies.

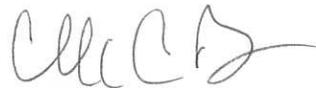
§ 11. Amendments

This Order may be amended as required to abate the emergency.

§ 12. Expiration Date

This Declaration of Emergency and Administrative Order shall take effect immediately upon execution by the Secretary of the Department, and shall expire at 11:59 P.M. on May 31, 2016, unless modified or extended by further order.

DONE AND ORDERED on this 25th day of Feb, 2016, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



Chuck Carr Brown, Ph.D.
Secretary