

PROCLAMATION DECLARING A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY TO INCLUDE THE IMMINENT THREAT CAUSED BY AN IMPENDING WINTER STORM (JANUARY 2025)

WHEREAS, Union County has the potential to suffer impacts from an area of low pressure moving across the Gulf of America, interacting with Arctic air, that will bring widespread, impactful winter weather to North Florida beginning Tuesday, January 21, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Union County is included in Winter Storm Warnings that have been issued for the western Florida Panhandle, with additional extensions eastward along the I-10 corridor this afternoon and evening; and

WHEREAS, all modes of hazardous winter weather will be likely, including snow, sleet, and freezing rain; and

WHEREAS, ice accretions from the eastern Florida Panhandle through the Suwannee River Valley are forecast to reach one-tenth (0.1) to one-quarter (0.25) inch, and isolated higher ice accretions cannot be ruled out for interior North Florida locations including Union County; and

WHEREAS, ice accumulation from freezing rain is the most impactful winter hazard, and significant impacts to roadways, bridges, trees, and powerlines are possible; and

WHEREAS, hazardous driving conditions will exist Tuesday night into Wednesday, especially over bridges, overpasses, and elevated surfaces, leading to possible roadway and bridge closures in Union County; and

WHEREAS, dangerously cold wind chills and prolonged freezing and sub-freezing temperatures are expected in Union County for the next several days; and

WHEREAS, the threat posed by this winter weather system requires that timely precautions are taken to protect the communities, critical infrastructure, and general welfare of Union County; and

WHEREAS, on January 20th, 2025, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 25-13, declaring a state of emergency related to the effects of this Winter Storm, and designating the Director of the Division of Emergency Management as the State Coordinating Officer; and

WHEREAS, damage to homes, businesses, agricultural operations, boating, fishing, travel, and other activities and facilities, is projected due to a wintry mix of precipitation causing ice on bridges and roads, which will cause severe transportation and other problems; and

WHEREAS, these conditions constitute a potential life-threatening situation for the citizens and visitors to Union County; and

WHEREAS, these conditions constitute a potential for damage to property of Union County; and

WHEREAS, the conditions constitute a potential for economic losses to the aquaculture and agriculture industry in Union County; and

WHEREAS, Section 252.38(3)(a)(5), Florida Statutes, provides authority for counties to declare a Local State of Emergency.

WHEREAS, the declaration of a local state of emergency under these conditions is determined to be in the best interest of Union County and its citizens.

WHEREAS, in order to be in position to provide the most effective assistance to the citizens of Union County, it is necessary that a declaration of an emergency is passed; and

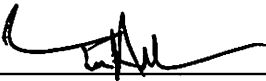
WHEREAS, *Chapter 252.38(3), F. S.* provides authority for a political subdivision such as Union County to declare a Local State of Emergency and to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of political subdivisions by law pertaining to:

- To appropriate and expend funds; make contracts; obtain and distribute equipment, materials, and supplies for emergency management purposes; provide for the health and safety of persons and property, including emergency assistance to the victims of any emergency.
- To appoint, employ, remove, or provide, with or without compensation, coordinators, fire and police personnel, and other emergency management workers.
- To assign and make available for duty the offices and agencies of the political subdivision, including the employees, property, or equipment thereof relating to firefighting, engineering, rescue, health, medical and related services, police, transportation, construction, and similar items or services for emergency operation purposes, as the primary emergency management forces of the political subdivision for employment within or outside the political limits of the subdivision.
- The duration of each state of emergency declared locally is limited to 7 days; it may be extended, as necessary, in 7-day increments. Further, the political subdivision has the power and authority to waive the procedures and formalities otherwise required of the political subdivision by law pertaining to:
 - a. Taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community
 - b. Entering into contracts
 - c. Incurring obligations
 - d. Employment of permanent and temporary workers
 - e. Utilization of volunteer workers
 - f. Rental of equipment
 - g. Acquisition and distribution, with or without compensation, of supplies, materials, and facilities
 - h. Appropriation and expenditure of public funds

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority granted by *Union County Code*, and Chapter 252, *Florida Statutes*, and further pursuant to the authority provided in *Executive Order 25-13*, for the aforementioned and above-outlined reasons, the undersigned, EM Director Timothy C. Allen hereby (1) declares and proclaims a local state of emergency in Union County, Florida, for the period commencing at 0700 on January 21st, 2025 and continuing through 0700 on January 28th, 2025; and (2) activates the *Union County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* and authorizes the utilization of the emergency powers provided under Sections 252.31 through 252.62, *Florida Statutes*.

DULY PROCLAIMED this 21st day of January 2025 by the Emergency Management Director of Union County, Florida.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA



By: Timothy C. Allen, as its
Emergency Management Director

1/21/25 0700

DATE / TIME