

State of Delaware



Executive Department

Dover

**DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY
AND LEVEL II DRIVING RESTRICTION FOR SUSSEX COUNTY
DUE TO A SEVERE WINTER STORM**

WHEREAS, a severe winter storm with blizzard-like conditions is generating and will continue to generate significant amounts of snow throughout the State of Delaware, with accumulations of up to twelve inches in Sussex County; and

WHEREAS, the severe winter storm includes heavy snowfall and gusting winds, resulting in significantly decreased visibility, potential coastal flooding, and other road hazards that make driving dangerous and creating potentially life-threatening conditions for the citizens of Sussex County; and

WHEREAS, on Thursday, January 4, 2018 at 1:00 p.m., I authorized the Delaware National Guard to assist state and local officials with any necessary response and recovery for this severe winter storm; and

WHEREAS, the predicted weather conditions will likely continue to create dangerous and potentially life-threatening road conditions and may result in additional public safety responses;

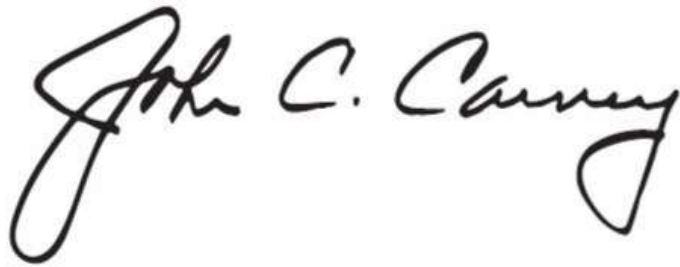
NOW THEREFORE, I, JOHN C. CARNEY, pursuant to Title 20, Chapter 31 of the Delaware Code, do hereby declare a State of Emergency in Sussex County. This State of Emergency will be effective as of Thursday, January 4, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. E.S.T., and shall continue until terminated as provided under state law. The nature of the emergency is significant amounts of snow and potentially high winds. Along with such other actions authorized by Title 20, Chapter 31 of the Delaware Code, I specifically direct and authorize:

1. All departments and agencies of the State of Delaware shall assist in response and recovery activities, as directed by and in coordination with the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA), in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Safety and Homeland Security (DSHS), necessary in those areas affected by the storm. Further, DEMA is authorized to enact the Delaware Emergency Operations Plan.
2. As of Thursday, January 4, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. E.S.T., and until further notice, a Level 2 Driving Restriction is in effect in Sussex County. No person may operate a motor vehicle on Delaware roadways, except for persons designated as “essential personnel.” Under Delaware law, the term “essential personnel” means employees or personnel who are necessary (1) to maintain the core functions of government, and (2) to maintain the health and safety of the people of Delaware. The following persons are specifically designated as “essential personnel” under Delaware law: Operators of snow removal equipment (public and private); Persons providing public utility services; Persons providing healthcare services; and Persons providing food and fuel deliveries. State and local officials are directed to remove abandoned vehicles from roads in affected areas at the expense of the vehicle owner.
3. The Delaware National Guard shall take precautionary or responsive actions directed by the Director of DEMA, in consultation with the Secretary of DSHS, upon request by local authorities.
4. I authorize the Delaware Department of Transportation and the Delaware State Police, in consultation with DEMA and the Secretary of the Department of Safety and Homeland

Security, to order such bridge and road closures as necessary to protect the health and safety of the public.

5. I reserve the right to take or direct state or local authorities to take, without issuance of further written order, any other necessary actions authorized by Title 20, Chapter 31 of the Delaware Code to respond to this emergency.

APPROVED this 4th day of January, 2018, at 2:00 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Carney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Governor