

# State of Delaware



Executive Department  
Dover

## **DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN KENT COUNTY DUE TO A BARGE FIRE**

**WHEREAS**, a fire erupted aboard a cargo barge that was reportedly carrying household appliances for scrap on Monday, May 23, 2022, approximately 9 miles off the coast of Port Mahon in the Delaware Bay; and

**WHEREAS**, crews from the United State Coast Guard, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Bowers Fire Company and other response agencies are actively fighting the barge fire and continue to assess any possible environmental impacts to the bay and to wildlife that might be struggling from the effects of the fire; and

**WHEREAS**, the fire has burned for more than twenty-four (24) hours and continues to burn; and

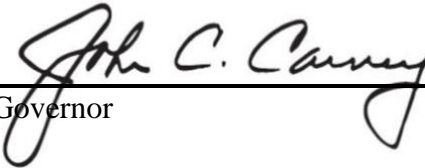
**WHEREAS**, due to the nature and severity of this emergency, a request for additional resources through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) pursuant to the provisions of Title 20, Chapter 34, was needed to support local emergency response operations to combat the fire.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, JOHN C. CARNEY**, pursuant to Title 20, Chapter 31 of the Delaware Code, do hereby declare a State of Emergency in Kent County due to a barge fire in the Delaware Bay, effective May 23, 2022, and continuing until terminated as provided under state law. Along with such other actions authorized by Title 20, Chapter 31 of the Delaware Code, I specifically direct and authorize:

1. The Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) to enact the Delaware Emergency Operations Plan, and to activate the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) pursuant to the provisions of Title 20, Chapter 34 to coordinate the allocation of resources from such other states that are made available to Delaware as necessary to address this emergency. Any requests for assistance made by the Director of DEMA with respect to this emergency before the issuance of this State of Emergency are ratified.
2. Authorize the Director of DEMA to direct the expenditure of emergency funds from all available sources as necessary for response and recovery activities related to this emergency.
3. All departments and agencies of the State of Delaware shall assist in response and recovery activities, as directed by and in coordination with DEMA, in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Safety and Homeland Security (DSHS), as necessary to address this emergency.
4. 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.

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 24th day of May 2022 at 2:30 p.m.

  
Governor