

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 57

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service has issued a Flood Watch for the State of New Jersey predicting severe weather conditions, including heavy rains, high winds, main stream and river flooding, and tidal and coastal flooding beginning on March 9, 2011; and

WHEREAS, this severe storm is expected to produce two to four inches of rain throughout the State, with forecasts of significantly higher rainfall in some localities; and

WHEREAS, this severe storm is expected to produce major flooding on the Ramapo, Passaic, Delaware, and Raritan Rivers, with the possibility of record floods, and heavy rain, saturated ground, and progressing runoff will worsen present flood conditions in the Ramapo, Passaic, Delaware, and Raritan River basins and in other rivers and streams throughout New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the impending weather and storm conditions are expected to require State, county, and local governments to open shelters and assist in evacuations, and will impede transportation and the flow of traffic throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, the impending weather and flood conditions are likely to make it difficult or impossible for citizens to obtain the necessities of life, as well as essential services such as police, fire and first aid; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid weather and flood conditions constitute an imminent hazard that threatens and presently endangers the health, safety and resources of the residents of one or more municipalities and counties of this State; and

WHEREAS, this situation may become too large in scope to be handled by the normal county and municipal operating services

in some parts of this State, and this situation may spread to other parts of the State; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution and statutes of the State of New Jersey, particularly the provisions of N.J.S.A. App. A: 9-33 et seq., N.J.S.A. 38A:3-6.1, and N.J.S.A. 38A:2-4 and all amendments and supplements thereto, confer upon the Governor of the State of New Jersey certain emergency powers;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRIS CHRISTIE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of this State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. I authorize and empower the State Director of Emergency Management to activate those elements of the State Emergency Operations Plan that he deems necessary to further safeguard the public security, health, and welfare, to direct the activation of county and municipal emergency operations plans as necessary, and to coordinate the recovery effort from this emergency with all governmental agencies, volunteer organizations, and the private sector.

2. I authorize and empower the State Director of Emergency Management, who is the Superintendent of State Police, in accordance with N.J.S.A. App.A:9-33 et seq., as supplemented and amended, through the police agencies under his control, to determine the control and direction of the flow of vehicular traffic on any State or interstate highway, municipal or county road, including the right to detour, reroute, or divert any or all traffic and to prevent ingress or egress from any area that, in the State Director's discretion, is deemed necessary for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare

of the public, and to remove parked or abandoned vehicles from such roadways as conditions warrant.

3. I authorize and empower the Attorney General, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 39:4-213, acting through the Superintendent of State Police, to determine the control and direction of the flow of vehicular traffic on any State, municipal, county, or interstate highway, and its access roads, including the right to detour, reroute, or divert any or all traffic, and to prevent ingress or egress from any area to which the declaration of emergency applies, and further authorize all law enforcement officers to enforce any such order of the Superintendent of State Police within their respective municipalities.

4. I authorize and empower the State Director of Emergency Management to order the evacuation of all persons, except for those emergency and governmental personnel whose presence the State Director deems necessary, from any area where their continued presence would present a danger to their health, safety, or welfare because of the conditions created by this emergency.

5. I authorize and empower the State Director of Emergency Management to utilize all facilities owned, rented, operated, and maintained by the State of New Jersey to house and shelter persons who may need to be evacuated from a residence, dwelling, building, structure, or vehicle during the course of this emergency.

6. I authorize and empower the executive head of any agency or instrumentality of the State government with authority to promulgate rules to waive, suspend, or modify any existing rule the enforcement of which would be detrimental to

the public welfare during this emergency, notwithstanding the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act or any law to the contrary for the duration of this Executive Order, subject to my prior approval and in consultation with the State Director of Emergency Management. Any such waiver, modification, or suspension shall be promulgated in accordance with N.J.S.A. App. A:9-45.

7. I authorize and empower the Adjutant General, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 38A:2-4 and N.J.S.A. 38A:3-6.1, to order to active duty such members of the New Jersey National Guard who, in the Adjutant General's judgment, are necessary to provide aid to those localities where there is a threat or danger to the public health, safety, and welfare and to authorize the employment of any supporting vehicles, equipment, communications, or supplies as may be necessary to support the members so ordered.

8. In accordance with the N.J.S.A. App. A:9-34 and N.J.S.A. App. A:9-51, I reserve the right to utilize and employ all available resources of the State government and of each and every political subdivision of the State, whether of persons, properties, or instrumentalities, and to commandeer and utilize any personal services and any privately owned property necessary to protect against this emergency.

9. In accordance with N.J.S.A. App. A:9-40, no municipality, county or any other agency or political subdivision of this State shall enact or enforce any order, rule, regulation, ordinance or resolution which will or might in any way conflict with any of the provisions of this Order, or which will in any way interfere with or impede the achievement of the purposes of this Order.

10. It shall be the duty of every person or entity in this State or doing business in this State and of the members of the governing body and every official, employee or agent of every political subdivision in this State and of each member of all other governmental bodies, agencies, and authorities in this State of any nature whatsoever, to cooperate fully with the State Director of Emergency Management in all matters concerning this state of emergency.

11. In accordance with N.J.S.A. App. A:9-34, N.J.S.A. App. A:9-40.6 and 40A:14-156.4, no municipality or public or semipublic agency shall send public works, fire, police, emergency medical or other personnel or equipment into any non-contiguous disaster-stricken municipality within this State, nor to any disaster-stricken municipality outside this State unless and until such aid has been directed by the county emergency management coordinator or his deputies in consultation with the State Director of Emergency Management.

12. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as it is determined by me that an emergency no longer exists.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this
 9th day of March,
 Two Thousand and Eleven,
 and of the Independence of
 the United States, the Two
 Hundred and Thirty-Fifth.

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Jeffrey S. Chiesa

Chief Counsel to the Governor