



State of Louisiana
RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE

Office of the Governor
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April 28,

GOVERNOR BOBBY JINDAL
Plotkin

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Governor Jindal Declares State of Emergency for Rising Levels of the Mississippi River

BATON ROUGE – Today, Governor Jindal declared a state of emergency in preparation for the Mississippi River with predicted river crests well above flood stage.

STATE OF EMERGENCY – IMMINENT THREAT OF FLOODING ALONG MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND OTHER STATE BODIES OF WATER

WHEREAS,

the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721, et seq., confers upon the Governor of the State of Louisiana emergency powers to deal with emergencies and disasters, including those caused by fire, flood, earthquake or other natural or manmade causes, in order to ensure that preparations of this state will be adequate to deal with such emergencies or disasters

and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, when the Governor determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, R.S. 29:724(B)(1) empowers the Governor to declare a state of emergency by executive order or proclamation, or both;

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service has issued flood alerts along the length of the Mississippi River with predicted river crests well above flood stage in many locations which, combined with currently forecast weather conditions across the middle of the nation, create the potential for major or record flooding for states along the Mississippi River;

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service has issued flood alerts for other bodies of water in the State which have the potential for moderate or greater flooding;

WHEREAS, multiple Parishes in north Louisiana that border the Mississippi River have already declared states of emergency in order to monitor this developing threat and implement flood protection measures necessary to protect their citizens;

WHEREAS, as the Mississippi River rises and then crests southward, the State Penitentiary at Angola will monitor this developing threat and implement flood protection measures necessary to protect inmates, staff, and residents; and

WHEREAS, the State anticipates that assistance may be needed to assist Parishes in their preparations and response to this developing threat;

NOW THEREFORE, I, BOBBY JINDAL, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: Pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721, et seq., a state of emergency is hereby declared to exist statewide as a result of the developing threat of flooding, extending along the length of the Mississippi River and in other bodies of water throughout the State, that threatens the lives and property of the citizens of the State.

SECTION 2: The Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness is hereby authorized to undertake any activity authorized by law which he deems appropriate in response to this declaration.

SECTION 3: All departments, commissions, boards, agencies and officers of the State, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions the State may take in response to the effects of this severe weather event.

SECTION 4: This state of emergency extends from Thursday, April 28, 2011 to Saturday, May 28, 2011, unless terminated sooner.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 28th day of April, 2011.

/S/Bobby Jindal
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY
THE GOVERNOR

/S/Tom Schedler
SECRETARY OF STATE

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