



Arkansas Severe Storms and Tornadoes April 3, 2025

Office of the Governor

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Press release on April 2, 2025:

“Sanders Declares an Emergency for Severe Storms, Tornadoes, and Flooding on or About April 2, 2025

TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

DR 25-04: EMERGENCY DECLARATION FOR SEVERE STORMS, TORNADOES, AND FLOODING ON OR ABOUT APRIL 2, 2025

WHEREAS: On April 2, 2025, severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding began in Arkansas, and are expected to continue, causing danger, hardship, and suffering throughout the state, which in turn, warrants this executive action;

WHEREAS: Great hardship has fallen upon citizens and properties in the State of Arkansas;

WHEREAS: The weather-related damage includes numerous downed power lines, creating the need for commercial vehicles to haul heavy equipment, oversized loads, transformers, necessary hardware, and other transmission and distribution equipment to line crews for the purpose of restoring power to the citizens of Arkansas;

WHEREAS: It is important to maintain a safe distance from these downed power lines, line crews, and related equipment;

WHEREAS: Pursuant to 49 CFR §390.23, a motor carrier or driver operating a commercial motor vehicle shall be exempt from 49 CFR §§ 395.3 and 395.5 for up to fourteen (14) days following the declaration of an emergency by the Governor of a State, so long as the motor carrier or driver is providing direct assistance in response to the declared emergency; and

WHEREAS: Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §12-75-114(e)(1), the Governor is authorized to suspend any regulatory statutes or rules that in any way prevent, hinder, or delay actions necessary in coping with an emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS, acting under the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arkansas and pursuant to Act 511 of 1973, as amended, do hereby declare that:

1. A state of emergency exists in the State of Arkansas as applied to commercial vehicles hauling heavy equipment, oversized loads, transformers, necessary hardware, and other transmission and distribution equipment for the purpose of restoring service to citizens and properties in Arkansas;
2. A state of emergency exists in the State of Arkansas as applied to emergency response vehicles, such as, but not limited to, utility vehicles, bucket trucks, and electric utility supply trucks responding to the storms and related damage;
3. Emergency response vehicles are authorized to bypass all Arkansas Department of Transportation weigh station facilities through April 16, 2025. This authorization does not include vehicles that require permits to operate on Arkansas' roadways. This authorization does not relieve size and weight restrictions. This declaration applies only to weigh stations and to vehicles traveling in convoy;
4. This state of emergency shall remain in effect until April 16, 2025, unless terminated by an amendment to this order.

FURTHERMORE, I hereby invoke the emergency executive powers vested in me under Ark. Code Ann. §§12-75-101 et seq., as amended, and suspend the provisions of any regulatory statutes or rules that prevent, hinder, or delay actions necessary in coping with the emergency described herein. State agencies are directed to render maximum assistance to the Arkansas Division of Emergency Management in relation to actions necessary for the rapid and orderly response to this emergency.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed on this 2nd day of April, in the year of our Lord 2025.”

Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

Arkansas Division of Emergency Management
Building 9501
Camp Joseph Robinson
North Little Rock, AR 72199
(501) 683-6700

[ADEM - Arkansas Department of Public Safety](#)

[Arkansas Division of Emergency Management | Facebook](#)
[ADEM \(@AR_Emergencies\) / X](#)

American Red Cross

Greater Arkansas American Red Cross
2610 S Shackleford Rd B
Little Rock, AR 72205
(501) 748-1000
[Greater Arkansas | American Red Cross](#)
[American Red Cross Arkansas | Facebook](#)

Open Shelters: None are currently open at this time.

To view an updated list of shelters, visit [Disaster Shelters | Find Shelters | American Red Cross](#).

Department of Transportation

Arkansas Department of Transportation
10324 I-30
Little Rock, AR 72209
(501) 569-2000
[Arkansas Department of Transportation](#)
[Arkansas Department of Transportation | Little Rock AR | Facebook](#)
[Arkansas Department of Transportation \(@myARDOT\) / X](#)

Please see the following link for updated traffic conditions: [FL511| Florida Traffic | Commuter Information](#).

United Way/211 Information and Referrals Lines

These information and referral lines may know of additional resources currently providing assistance, such as food pantries, clothing closets, emergency shelters, and agencies offering financial assistance. Please dial 2-1-1 and provide your zip code and demographic information in order to receive referrals. Information can also be obtained at [Call 211 for Essential Community Services | United Way 211](#).

Arkansas 211
Dial 2-1-1 or 866-48906983
Text your zip code to 898-211.
Visit [About Arkansas 211 | Arkansas 211](#).



Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

(800) 621-3362

[FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov)

Please visit the website and click on “*Disaster Declarations*”. If a disaster is declared, please call to apply for assistance by phone, or visit: [Individual Assistance | FEMA.gov](#) to apply online.

DisasterAssistance.gov

[Home | disasterassistance.gov](#)

Offers information about local resources for disasters, including: FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs), Red Cross, food, shelter, state emergency management agencies, and hospital locators.

To determine if individual disaster assistance is available through FEMA, please visit the website and enter the address.

To locate your local state emergency management agency for disaster information and updates, please visit: [Search Your Location | FEMA.gov](#)

American Red Cross National

(800) 733-2767

[American Red Cross | Help Those Affected by Disasters](#)

National Weather Service

Weather alerts by state are available at: [Active Alerts \(weather.gov\)](#).

The Weather Channel

Local forecasts and severe weather.

[National and Local Weather Radar, Daily Forecast, Hurricane and information from The Weather Channel and weather.com.](#)

Safe Travel USA

[SafeTravelUSA](#)

National Traffic And Road Closure Information

[National Traffic and Road Closure Information | Federal Highway Administration \(dot.gov\)](#)

Free Help Line

Optum, a leading health and behavioral health services company, is offering a free emotional-support help line.

The toll-free number, 866-447-3573, will be open Monday-Friday, 8am-8pm CST. The service is free of charge and open to anyone. Specially trained Optum mental health specialists help people manage their stress and anxiety so they can continue to address their everyday needs. Callers may also receive referrals to community resources to help them with specific concerns, including financial and legal matters.

Along with the toll-free help line, emotional-support resources and information are available online at <https://www.liveandworkwell.com>.