

# Office of the Governor

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Governor Declares State of Emergency Due to Hurricane Floyd**

The following is a statement from NJ Gov. Christie Whitman regarding today's declaration of a state of emergency in anticipation of Hurricane Floyd:

"Today I am declaring a state of emergency for the entire state, beginning immediately.

"This unusual step is being taken in anticipation of Hurricane Floyd, which is expected to hit New Jersey sometime tomorrow.

"The state of emergency will authorize the deployment of the National Guard and the pre-positioning of National Guard, NJ State Police and NJ Department of Transportation personnel and equipment.

"Due to the projected severity of the storm and the forecast that it will hit during mid-day tomorrow, we may have to close New Jersey's schools tomorrow and possibly Friday.

"I am asking residents to monitor the news tonight and tomorrow morning for updates on closings.

"Although weather forecasting is never exact, at this time we believe that the entire state will be subjected to as much as 12 hours of sustained winds in the 30-to-70 miles per hour range. These winds could be accompanied by 5-to-10 inches of rainfall.

"Severe stream, tidal and roadway flooding are anticipated, as well as significant wind damage throughout the state. Power outages are likely due to downed trees.

"County and local emergency management offices will direct evacuations, should they be deemed necessary.

"In short, we are preparing for an enormous storm, predicted to sweep across the entire state for an extended period of time."