Governor Sherrill Declares Statewide State of Emergency Ahead of Thanksgiving Nor'easter

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Order Directs Department of Education to Expand Evidence-Based Reading Instruction, Improve Early Grades Reading Proficiency, and Close Achievement Gaps

TRENTON – Governor Mikie Sherrill today declared a State of Emergency across all 21 counties of New Jersey, effective at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25, 2026. A powerful coastal storm is expected to bring damaging winds, heavy rainfall, and severe tidal flooding through Friday, November 27. Multiple rounds of moderate to major coastal flooding are expected, with the most dangerous conditions on Thursday, November 26, Thanksgiving Day. Coastal and bayside communities face the greatest risk.

Executive Order No. 31 authorizes the State Director of Emergency Management, who is the Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police, to implement the State Emergency Operations Plan. The order directs coordination across county and municipal emergency management, state agencies, volunteer organizations, and the private sector. It also authorizes the State to close or reroute roads, order evacuations where conditions become dangerous, open state facilities as shelters, and activate members of the New Jersey National Guard as needed.

The National Weather Service has issued a coastal flood warning for Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Salem, and Union counties. It has issued a high wind warning for Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Salem, Somerset, Union, and Warren counties, and a storm warning for all marine zones. Wind gusts of 50 to 70 miles per hour are expected across most of the state, with gusts above 70 miles per hour possible along the coast and seas building to 15 to 20 feet, creating an elevated risk of power outages. Rainfall of 1 to 3 inches is expected statewide, with up to 4 inches along the coast. Flooded roadways may become impassable and some communities may be cut off.

"My first responsibility as Governor is the safety of the people of New Jersey, and this nor'easter demands that we act now. Damaging winds, heavy rain, and major flooding will threaten communities across our state as families gather for Thanksgiving, and our coastal and bayside communities will face the greatest danger. I am asking every New Jerseyan to make their arrangements today, stay off the roads as much as possible once the storm arrives, and follow every directive from local officials, including any order to evacuate. Our teams across state government will be working around the clock to keep every family safe," said Governor Sherrill.

Before the storm arrives, residents should:

- Plan to arrive at your holiday destination before the storm's peak on Thursday.
- Charge phones and backup batteries.
- Secure or bring inside loose outdoor items.
- Keep food, water, medications, and flashlights on hand in case of outages.
- Know your evacuation route if you live in a coastal or bayside community.

During the storm:

- Stay off the roads as much as possible.
- Never drive or walk through flooded roadways.
- Report outages to your utility and stay clear of downed lines.
- Call 9-1-1 for emergencies. Dial 2-1-1 for non-emergency storm assistance.

For weather updates and safety information, visit ready.nj.gov and continue monitoring local forecasts, warnings, and watches.

For a copy of Executive Order No. 31, please click here.