



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

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**EXECUTIVE ORDER**

**19-01**

**January 21, 2019**

**DECLARATION OF DISASTER EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, residential and commercial natural gas service has been terminated in Newport, Middletown, and Portsmouth due to a low-pressure gas line that has left approximately 7,000 natural gas customers without heat during dangerously cold weather conditions; and

WHEREAS, heating service may not be fully restored for many days; and

WHEREAS, citizens must be notified of this emergency and transported to safe shelters to prevent injury and loss of life from exposure to extreme cold; and

WHEREAS, this emergency threatens the life and safety of Rhode Islanders in Newport, Middletown, and Portsmouth and evacuation of these areas is necessary for the preservation of life; and

WHEREAS Newport, Middletown, and Portsmouth require state support to assist in Rhode Islanders impacted by this emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Rhode Island is authorized to direct and compel the evacuation of all or part of the population from any stricken or threatened areas within the state if the governor deems this action necessary for the preservation of life.

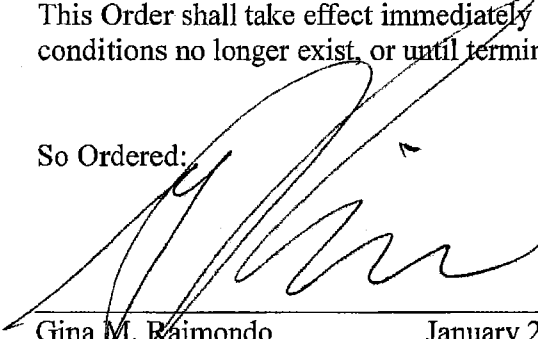
NOW, THEREFORE, I, GINA M. RAIMONDO, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, pursuant to Article IX of the Rhode Island Constitution and the Rhode Island General Laws, including, but not limited to, Title 30, Chapter 15, do hereby order and direct the following:

1. A declaration of disaster emergency is declared for Newport County due to the danger to life, and the state disaster emergency plan is activated.

2. The Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) is directed to stand up the state emergency operations center and to activate all other necessary state emergency response plans, policies, compacts and agreements, to create and establish mobile support units, and to activate and deploy disaster response teams and disaster response workers to perform disaster response services.
3. The Adjutant General is authorized to order Rhode Island National Guard members to state active duty, if necessary, to assist in the response to this disaster.
4. All state departments, agencies or quasi-state agencies and boards and commissions performing executive functions shall cooperate fully with RIEMA in all matters concerning this Order. Efforts to provide emergency disaster relief to the affected city and towns should be coordinated by and through RIEMA.
5. Pursuant to the emergency powers granted by Rhode Island General Laws, and any other applicable provisions of state or federal law, I shall, from time to time, issue additional recommendations, directions and orders as circumstances require, either written or verbal.
6. Law enforcement authorities are directed to compel the evacuation or closure of all or part of the population from any stricken or threatened area within the state as deemed necessary.

This Order shall take effect immediately and remain in full force and effect until the emergency conditions no longer exist, or until terminated by subsequent order.

So Ordered:



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Gina M. Raimondo  
Governor

January 21, 2019