

**PROCLAMATION OF THE EXISTENCE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY BY THE DIRECTOR OF
EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF EL DORADO DUE TO THE SEVERE WINTER STORMS
IN FEBRUARY 2026**

WHEREAS, California Government Code §8850, the California Emergency Services Act, confers upon the governing bodies of the political subdivisions of this state emergency powers necessary to protect health and safety and preserve lives and property; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code §8630 states that “a local emergency may be proclaimed only by the governing body of a county, a city and county, or city or by an official so designated by ordinance adopted by such governing body”; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to El Dorado County ordinance code chapter 2.21, the Sheriff is the Director of the Office of Emergency Services and is authorized to proclaim a local emergency when said County’s public or infrastructure is substantially affected or likely to be substantially affected by man-made or natural adversity and the County Board of Supervisors is not in session, subject to ratification within seven days and reaffirmation every 60 days thereafter until such local emergency has concluded; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code §8850, the California Emergency Services Act, confers upon the governing bodies of the political subdivisions of this state emergency powers necessary to protect health and safety and preserve lives and property; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Services of the County of El Dorado does hereby find that conditions of peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within said County, caused by the February Winter 2026 Storms which began on the 17th day of February, 2026, and that these conditions are likely to be beyond the control of services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of said County, and that the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors is not in session and cannot immediately be called into session; and

WHEREAS, thousands of El Dorado County residents are currently threatened by severe storms starting on the 17th day of February, 2026, which are bringing substantial precipitation and snowfall in areas unaccustomed to this amount snow; and

WHEREAS, the February Winter 2026 Storms pose threats to numerous citizens, structures, roadways, and water and power infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the storm event has caused and is continuing to cause a multitude of effects which are a threat to the health and safety of the persons and residents of El Dorado County, including blocked roadways, extensive damage to the power grid, and saturated ground which could lead to surface street and residential flooding; and

WHEREAS, the storm and currently impending storms has necessitated the evacuation of some vulnerable members of the population from the inaccessible and affected areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a local emergency now exists throughout El Dorado County, and;

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local emergency the powers, functions, and duties of that emergency organization of El Dorado County shall be those prescribed by state law, by ordinances, and resolutions of this County; and that this emergency proclamation shall expire 7 days after issuance unless confirmed and ratified by the governing body of the County of El Dorado.

Dated: February 20, 2026



Sheriff Jeff Leikauf
Director of the Emergency Services