



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Amanda Robertson, Chair
Franklin Gomez Flores, Vice Chair
Karen Howard
David Delaney
Katie Kenlan

COUNTY MANAGER Bryan Thompson

Proclamation of Chatham County, North Carolina Declaring a State of Emergency for Winter Storm Fern

WHEREAS, imminent threat of severe winter weather forecasted to affect Chatham County on or about January 24, 2026, causing severe impacts; and

WHEREAS, forecasted snow, sleet, and freezing rain accompanied by other elements of a winter storm affecting Chatham County; and

WHEREAS, the projected winter storm will likely damage public and private property and could seriously disrupt essential utility services and systems. Efforts in preparing for this emergency by Chatham County Government are needed; and

WHEREAS, through executive order the Governor of the State of North Carolina declared a [State of Emergency](#) for the entire State of North Carolina, including Chatham County.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Chairman of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners under Article 1A of Chapter 166A and Article 36A of Chapter 14 of the North Carolina General Statutes, and under the Chatham County Emergency Management Ordinance:

Section 1. A State of Emergency is hereby declared within the jurisdiction of Chatham County.

Section 2. The emergency area covered by this State of Emergency shall be the entire jurisdiction of Chatham County.

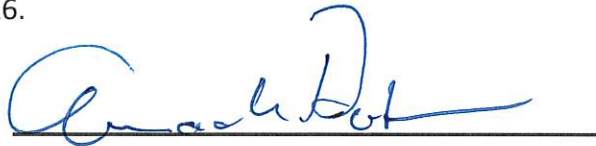
Section 3. The following restrictions and prohibitions are imposed in order to maintain an acceptable level of public order, services, and protection of lives, safety and property during this emergency, and that the same shall be in effect within the County of Chatham until the State of Emergency expires or is rescinded:

A. Access to Restricted Areas. *The Sheriff or Chief of Police and his or her subordinates within their respective jurisdictions may restrict or deny access to any area, location, street, or road where such a restriction is necessary in order to help overcome unsafe road conditions due to ice, snow, or other dangers brought on by ice or snow buildup.*

B. Other: *Residents are encouraged to stay off the roadways if reasonably possible, and to limit travel so as not to interfere with efforts of emergency responders and repair crews.*

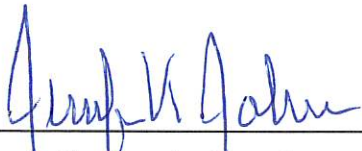
- Section 4. All Chatham County law enforcement officers, employees, and all other emergency management personnel are encouraged to cooperate in the enforcement and implementation of the provisions of this Declaration, all applicable local ordinances, state and federal laws, and the Chatham County Emergency Operations Plan.
- Section 5. I hereby authorize the Chatham County Manager to take all necessary actions in order to assist in maintaining the public order or afford adequate protection for lives, safety, or property as needed.
- Section 6. I hereby order this declaration: (a) to be distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (b) to be filed with the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners; (c) to be posted at the Chatham County Courthouse or other public buildings as appropriate; (d) to be electronically posted to the Chatham County website; and (e) to be submitted to the NC Department of Public Safety's critical incident management system.
- Section 7. This Declaration shall take effect on Thursday, January 22, 2026, and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

Proclaimed this the 22nd day of January 2026.



Amanda Robertson, Chair
Chatham County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Jenifer Johnson, Clerk to the Board
Chatham County Board of Commissioners

