

**A Proclamation**  
**By**  
**Governor Ronnie Musgrove**

**Whereas**, areas of the State of Mississippi has been and will continue to be adversely affected by a severe weather system beginning on December 19, 2002, and as a result thereof severe thunderstorms, damaging winds and tornadoes have occurred over wide areas of Mississippi causing numerous injuries, possible fatalities, damage to homes, businesses, public utilities and public property; and

**Whereas**, in consideration of the health and safety of the citizens and the protection of their property within the affected areas, and in the public interest, all steps should be taken to protect people and property:

**Now**, therefore, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Constitution of the State of Mississippi and Sections 33-15-11-(b) (16), Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, and in the public interest and for the general welfare, do hereby proclaim a State of Emergency to exist in Newton and Lincoln Counties and other areas of the State of Mississippi affected by the severe weather system. The provisions of this proclamation shall exist and be in effect until such time as emergency conditions shall cease to exist.

**Further**, all agencies of the State of Mississippi shall discharge their emergency responsibilities as set forth in State Emergency Operations Plan and Executive Order No. 653, dated November 16, 1990.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

**DONE** in the City of Jackson, December 19, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR

Eric Clark

Secretary of State