

APPENDIX 1 - INSTRUCTIONS for DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND ISSUING EMERGENCY ORDERS WITHIN WYOMING COUNTY

A. Instructions for declaring a Local State of Emergency

1. Only the Chair of the Board of Supervisors, or a person acting for the Chair pursuant to section I.A.(2) of this plan, can declare a local State of Emergency for all or anywhere in Wyoming County. Each Town Supervisor and Village Mayor can declare States of Emergency within their jurisdiction.
2. A local State of Emergency is declared pursuant to section 24 of the State Executive Law.
3. It can be declared in response to, or anticipation of, a threat to public safety.
4. A declaration of a local State of Emergency may be verbal or written.
5. If it is verbal, it is best to follow it with a written format.
6. The declaration should include the time and date, the reason for the declaration, the area involved, and the expected duration.
7. The written declaration should be kept on file in the County Clerk's Office.
8. A local State of Emergency must be declared BEFORE Emergency Orders are issued.
9. A local State of Emergency should be formally rescinded when the declaration is no longer needed.
10. Only the Chair of the Board of Supervisors, or person acting for, may rescind a local State of Emergency.
11. Though a rescission may be verbal or written, if the declaration was written, the rescission should also be written.
12. The rescission should include the time and date of the original declaration, the reason for the local State of Emergency, and the time and date the State of Emergency is rescinded.
13. The written rescission should be kept on file in the County Clerk's Office.

B. Sample Declaration of a Local State of Emergency

A DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

Wyoming County, New York has been declared a state of emergency in _____, in pursuant to article 2-B of the Executive Law of the State of New York. Due to _____ (have/has) been experienced throughout the county. This declaration is in effect Date: _____ and will remain in effect until further notice.

“Additional local, emergency orders may be promulgated by the chief executive officer during this state of emergency in order to further protect life and property and bring the emergency conditions under control.”

_____, Chairman of the Board

_____, Sheriff

_____, Director of Fire & Emergency Management

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Why should I declare a local state of emergency?

It increases your powers as the Chief Executive Officer. These new powers can include:

- issuing emergency orders;
- implementing public protective measures;
- suspending local laws; and
- requesting supplemental assistance.

1. Can a declaration give legal protection?

Yes. A declaration of a local State of Emergency provides legal protection and immunities for the Chief Executive and local emergency officials when they make decisions and take actions to respond to disasters or emergencies.

2. Will the declaration help raise public awareness?

Yes. A declaration of a local State of Emergency helps make the public aware of the hazards associated with a disaster. It also can emphasize the protective measures you may need to ask citizens to take.

3. Can a State of Emergency be declared at any time?

No. A local State of Emergency can be issued when a situation exists that has or will place the public at risk and that will require extraordinary measures for proper protection.

4. When should I declare a local State of Emergency?

You should consider declaring a local State of Emergency when a dangerous situation is present or imminent and emergency officials are considering protective actions such as:

- Evacuation of people for a large or heavily populated area (street, road, housing development, multi-resident buildings).
- Sheltering people in designated areas or buildings.
- Large-scale closing of roads due to conditions considered to be dangerous to lives and property.

You should also consider declaring a local State of Emergency if the following conditions are present and pose a dangerous threat to the municipality:

- Riots or civil unrest. Hostage situations.
- Impending emergency or disaster caused by natural forces (floods, blizzards, ice storms, tornadoes).

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5. Can I issue the declaration verbally?

Yes. The Chief Executive may issue a declaration verbally if time is a crucial matter. However, you should follow the verbal declaration with a written declaration.

6. Must the declaration be filed?

No. However, it's a good idea to do so. It should be kept on file at the Office of the County Clerk.

7. Do I have to extend the declaration of State of Emergency after 5 days?

No. The State of Emergency does not have to be extended, but Local Emergency Orders do.

8. Does the law establish a time limit for a State of Emergency?

No. It is best to include a time of duration in the original declaration of State of Emergency, or to issue a succeeding declaration with a time limit or a statement that the State of Emergency is continuing. When the proclamation is no longer needed, it should be formally rescinded.

9. Can I issue Local Emergency Orders without a State of Emergency?

No. A State of Emergency must be declared before you may issue Local Emergency Orders.

10. Will a declaration help in getting assistance from the state?

Yes. If you declare a local State of Emergency and you determine the disaster is beyond the capacity of County resources, the Chief Executive may request the Governor to provide assistance from state resources.

11. Must I rescind a declaration of State of Emergency?

No. However, a written rescinding statement should be made when the emergency no longer exists. The Chief Executive can rescind the declaration of emergency at any time.

12. If I don't rescind a State of Emergency, does it end automatically?

Maybe -- If a time limit was indicated in the declaration of State of Emergency it will end automatically at that the time and date indicated. If no time limit was specified, the State of Emergency does NOT end automatically.

13. When should I rescind a State of Emergency?

You should rescind it when the conditions that warranted the declaration no longer exist.

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14. Must the rescission be issued in writing?

No. However, it is recommended, in the same manner as a declaration of State of Emergency is recommended, to be issued in written form.

15. Must the rescission be filed?

No. However, it is recommended that it be filed in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

C. Instructions for issuing a Local Emergency Order

1. Local Emergency Orders can be issued only if there is a State of Emergency in effect pursuant to section 24 of the State Executive Law (see section A. above).
2. Local Emergency Orders can be issued at the Wyoming County level only by the Chief Executive or a person acting for the Chief Executive pursuant to section I.A.(2) of this plan. Each Town Supervisor and Village Mayor can also issue emergency orders for their jurisdiction following the declaration of a local state of emergency by that same executive.
3. Local Emergency Orders must be written.
4. Local Emergency Orders should include the time and date they take effect, the reason for the declaration, the area involved, and the duration.
5. A Local Emergency Order expires automatically after five (5) days. It can be rescinded before that by its own terms, or by a rescission by the Chief Executive. It is also automatically rescinded when the State of Emergency is rescinded.
6. The Chief Executive may extend Local Emergency Orders for periods not to exceed five (5) days each during the State of Emergency.
7. Local Emergency Orders must be published as soon as practicable in a newspaper of general circulation and provided to radio and television media for broadcast.
8. Local Emergency Orders must be executed in triplicate and filed within 72 hours or as soon as practicable in the Office of the Clerk of the County Legislature, Office of the County Clerk, and the Office of the Secretary of State.
9. Local Emergency Orders must be refiled if they are extended.

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D. Sample Local Emergency Order:

Local Emergency Order Evacuating Vulnerable Areas:

I, _____, Chair of the Board of Supervisors for Wyoming County,

in accordance with a declaration of a State of Emergency issued on _____,

200____, and pursuant to Section 24 of the State Executive Law, hereby

order the evacuation of all persons from the following zones: (locales)

Zone 1. _____

Zone 2. _____

This evacuation is necessary to protect the public from _____

This order is effective immediately and shall apply until removed by order of the Chief Executive.

Failure to obey this order is a criminal offense.

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Signed this _____ day of _____, 200____

(date) (month)

at _____ o'clock, in _____, New York

(time) (municipality)

Signed: _____ Title: _____

Witness: _____ Title: _____

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E. Questions and Answers on issuing Local Emergency Orders

1. Can anyone issue a Local Emergency Order?

No. Only the Chief Executive of a county, city, town or village may issue a Local Emergency Order.

2. What can a local Emergency Order include?

An emergency order can require whatever is necessary to protect life and property or to bring the emergency situation under control as long as what it is within the constitutional powers of county government.

3. Can a Local Emergency Order be issued at any time in an emergency?

No. A Local Emergency Order can be issued only after the Chief Executive declares a local State of Emergency.

4. Is it in effect indefinitely?

No. A Local Emergency Order is effective from the time and in the manner prescribed in the order. It terminates 5 days after issuance, or by rescission by the Chief Executive, or a declaration by the Chief Executive that the State of Emergency no longer exists, whichever occurs sooner.

5. Can an order be modified once it's issued?

Yes. A Local Emergency Order may be amended, modified, or rescinded at any time by the Chief Executive during the State of Emergency.

6. Can a Local Emergency Order be extended beyond five days?

Yes. The Chief Executive may extend an order for additional periods up to 5 days each during the local State of Emergency. Each extension must be refiled.

7. Must the media be informed?

Yes. The Local Emergency Order must be published as soon as practicable in a newspaper of general circulation in the area affected by the order. It should be published under the paid legal advertisement section. It must also be provided to radio and television media for broadcast.

8. Can a citizen who disobeys an emergency order be arrested?

Yes. Any person who knowingly violates any Local Emergency Order of a Chief Executive issued pursuant to Section 24 of the Executive Law can be found guilty of a class B misdemeanor.