

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

IN RE: SUSPENSION OF STATUTES AND
RULES PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER
NUMBER 24-214, RELATING TO TROPICAL
STORM MILTON

DEM ORDER NO. 25-002

EMERGENCY ORDER

WHEREAS, on October 5, 2024, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 24-214 regarding Tropical Storm Milton affecting most of the State of Florida, declaring a state of emergency for Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Citrus, Collier, DeSoto, Flagler, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lake, Lee, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Sumter, and Volusia counties; and

WHEREAS, section 2 of Executive Order 24-214 designated the Executive Director of the Division of Emergency Management (“Division”) as the State Coordinating Officer for the duration of this emergency and delegated to the State Coordinating Officer the authority to exercise those powers delineated in section 252.36(6)-(12), Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 2. E. of Executive Order 24-214, the State Coordinating Officer possesses the authority to designate Deputy State Coordinating Officers, as necessary; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 2. F. of Executive Order 24-214 and section 252.36(1)(a) and (6)(a), Florida Statutes, Governor DeSantis authorized the State Coordinating Officer to suspend the effect of any statute, rule or order that would in any way prevent, hinder or delay any mitigation, response, or recovery action necessary to respond to this emergency; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 4. B. of Executive Order 24-214, each state agency may suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state

business or the orders or rules of that agency, if strict compliance with the provisions of any such statute, order or rule would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency; and

WHEREAS, strict compliance with sections 255.052 and 255.0525, Florida Statutes, which pertain to the procurement and bidding process of construction contracts, would subject the Division to undue delay and inhibit the ability to procure contracts from qualified bidders, necessary to facilitate the mitigation and recovery of buildings affected by this emergency; and

WHEREAS, strict compliance with the provisions of section 255.04, Florida Statutes and section 255.099, Florida Statutes, which pertains to the preference to state contracting and hiring state residents, would subject the Division to a severe shortage of qualified personnel and thereby would cause delay in taking action to facilitate the mitigation, response, and recovery necessary to respond to this emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KEVIN GUTHRIE, pursuant to section 4 of Executive Order 24-214 and section 252.36(1)(a) and (6)(a), Florida Statutes, find that the Division's strict compliance with the following statutes and rules would prevent, hinder or delay necessary action by the Division in coping with the emergency:

- 1) Section 255.052 and Section 255.0525, Florida Statutes; and
- 2) Section 255.04, and Section 255.099, Florida Statutes.

Accordingly, for the duration of Executive Order 24-214, including any extensions thereof, and pursuant to the authority delegated to me thereby, I hereby suspend the effect of the above-referenced statutes and rules only as it pertains to the Division and only for the limited purpose of facilitating the Division's response to this emergency.

Additionally, I designate the Deputy Directors of the Division as Deputy State Coordinating Officers, who shall, subject to my approval or ratification, jointly and/or concurrently have the authority granted in Section 2 of Executive Order 24-214.

This Order is effective immediately and shall expire on the same date that Executive Order 24-214 expires, to include any extensions thereto.

By Order of the State Coordinating Officer executed this 24 day of April, 2025, in Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida.



Kevin Guthrie
State Coordinating Officer
Florida Division of Emergency Management
2555 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Filed on this date, with
the designated Division Clerk,
receipt of which is hereby
acknowledged.



Division Clerk

Date: April 25, 2025