



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER #240

Declaration of a State of Emergency Relating to the Transportation of Hay

WHEREAS, extreme wildfires have caused extensive damage to farms, cattle ranches, and homes, caused several human deaths, destroyed millions of acres of agricultural land, and killed thousands of cattle in the states of Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service has issued warnings for the potential of the wildfires to spread into other states including Nebraska and Iowa; and

WHEREAS, the wildfires and damage to agricultural lands have resulted in a significant shortage of animal feed, namely hay; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin and other Midwestern farmers have generously offered to assist these out-of-state farmers and ranchers by donating hay to offset the potential economic consequences of the wildfires; and

WHEREAS, allowing the transportation of loads of hay bales within this state, in a safe manner and as described in this order, will benefit farmers injured by these wildfires; and

WHEREAS, the benefits to the farmers and ranchers, and offsetting the significant loss of livestock and agricultural lands, may minimize any negative economic impacts on the State of Wisconsin as a result of higher prices for agricultural commodities and products; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has determined that an agricultural emergency exists, and the Secretary of the Department of Transportation has authorized the issuance of agricultural emergency permits to allow certain over- width and height vehicles to transport baled hay, straw, cornstalks, and stover used for feed; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Department of Transportation has waived the fee required to obtain a 72-hour trip permit for vehicles traveling into Wisconsin that are not registered in Wisconsin nor enrolled in the International Registration Plan (IRP) or the International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA);

NOW THEREFORE, I, SCOTT WALKER, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this State, including sections 323.10 and 323.12 of the Wisconsin Statutes and section 390.23 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, do hereby declare the damage caused by these wildfires to be a natural disaster causing an indirect impact on the State of Wisconsin, and I further declare that a state of emergency shall exist for the entire State of Wisconsin, effective immediately today, Friday, March 31, 2017, for a period of thirty (30) days for the purpose of transporting loads of hay. Pursuant to this state of emergency, and by the authority vested in me by the aforementioned regulations, I hereby order that:

1. Carriers and drivers of motor vehicles while in the process of obtaining and transporting baled hay, straw, cornstalks, and stover used for feed are exempt from

the weight limitations of section 348.15(3)(c) of the Wisconsin statutes. This exemption authorizes only weights not more than 90,000 pounds gross vehicle weight, if vehicle is in combination and combination has 5 or more axles; or not more than 10% greater than the gross axle weight and axle combination weight limitations, and not more than 15% greater than the gross weight vehicle limitations, as set forth in section 348.15(3)(c) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

2. Carriers and drivers of motor vehicles while in the process of obtaining and transporting baled hay, straw, cornstalks, and stover used for feed are exempt from the length limitations of section 348.07 of the Wisconsin Statutes. This exemption authorizes only combinations of 2 vehicles with an overall length of not more than 75 feet or a single vehicle with an overall length of not more than 45 feet.
3. This order does not suspend the operation of any state or federal laws within the State of Wisconsin except as specifically described in the order or allowed pursuant to a Department of Transportation 72-hour trip permit fee waiver or agricultural emergency permit. All other laws remain in full force and will be enforced.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this thirty-first day of March in the year two thousand seventeen


SCOTT WALKER
Governor

By the Governor:


DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State