Federal Motor Carrier
Safety Administration

December 23, 2025

REGIONAL EMERGENCY DECLARATION
PURSUANT TO 49 CFR § 390.23
No. 2025-013

ILLINOIS, IOWA, KANSAS, KENTUCKY, OHIO, MINNESOTA, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA, TENNESSEE, AND WISCONSIN

The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) hereby declares that an emergency exists that warrants issuance of a Regional Emergency Declaration and provide emergency regulatory relief from certain requirements in Part 395 of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSRs).[1] This Emergency Declaration is issued in response to winter storms and colder than normal weather in the Affected States, a pipeline break and operations issues associated with the Mid-American Pipeline System, and an unexpected shutdown of the Robinson Refinery in Illinois severely disrupting the flow of propane and the current and anticipated effects on people and property, including the immediate risk to public health, safety and welfare. This Emergency Declaration addresses the emergency conditions creating a need for immediate transportation of heating fuel, including propane, natural gas, and heating oil, and provides necessary relief. The Affected States and jurisdictions (Affected States) in this Emergency Declaration are Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Ohio, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

By execution of this Emergency Declaration, motor carriers and drivers providing direct assistance to the emergency in the Affected States are granted emergency relief from 49 CFR § 395.3, maximum driving time for property-carrying vehicles, subject to the restrictions and conditions set forth herein. The regulatory relief under this Emergency Declaration applies regardless of the origin of the trip, so long as the carrier or driver is providing direct assistance to the emergency in the Affected States. Direct assistance does not include transportation related to long-term rehabilitation of damaged physical infrastructure after the initial threat to life and property has passed, nor does it include routine commercial deliveries, including mixed loads with a nominal quantity of qualifying emergency relief added to obtain the benefits of the Declaration.

Emergency Declaration Restrictions & Conditions

By execution of this Emergency Declaration, motor carriers and drivers providing direct assistance to the emergency in the Affected States as set forth herein are granted emergency relief from regulations in 49 CFR § 395.3, maximum driving time for property-carrying vehicles, subject to the following restrictions and conditions:

[1] This Declaration is posted at https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/emergency-declarations.

1. Nothing in this Emergency Declaration shall be construed as a waiver of or exemption from any applicable requirements or any portion of the FMCSRs (49 CFR Parts 350–399) including the controlled substance and alcohol uses and testing requirements (49 CFR Part 382), the commercial driver's license requirements (49 CFR Part 383), or the financial responsibility (insurance) requirements (49 CFR Part 387); Federal Hazardous Materials Safety Regulations (HMRs) (49 CFR Parts 100–180); vehicle size, and weight limitations, as well as route designations administered by the Federal Highway Administration (23 CFR Part 658; 23 U.S.C. § 127; 49 U.S.C. §§ 31111–31115); or any other regulations for which relief is not specifically granted herein.

2. Motor carriers or drivers currently subject to an out-of-service order are not eligible for the relief granted by this Emergency Declaration until they have met the applicable conditions for its rescission and the order has been rescinded in writing by the issuing jurisdiction.

3. This Emergency Declaration provides for regulatory relief from 49 CFR § 395.3 for commercial motor vehicle operations while providing direct assistance supporting emergency relief efforts. Direct assistance terminates when a driver or commercial motor vehicle is used in interstate commerce to transport cargo or provide services that are not in support of emergency relief efforts related to the emergency as set forth in this Emergency Declaration, or when the motor carrier dispatches a driver or commercial motor vehicle to another location to begin operations in commerce. (49 CFR § 390.23(e)). Upon termination of direct assistance to emergency relief efforts related to the emergency as set forth in this Emergency Declaration, the motor carrier and driver are subject to the requirements of 49 CFR § 395.3 while operating commercial motor vehicles in interstate commerce, except that a driver may return empty to the motor carrier's terminal or the driver's normal work reporting location without complying with 49 CFR § 395.3, except as noted herein. When a driver is moving from emergency relief efforts to normal operations, if the driver is transporting property, a 10-hour break is required when the total time a driver is engaged in emergency relief efforts, or in a combination of emergency relief and normal operations, equals or exceeds 14 hours.

In accordance with 49 CFR § 390.23, this Emergency Declaration is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until the end of the emergency *(as defined in 49 CFR § 390.5T)* or until 11:59 P.M. (ET), January 15, 2026, whichever is earlier. FMCSA intends to continually review the status of this Declaration and the relief granted herein. As necessary, FMCSA may take action to modify this Emergency Declaration, including modification of the transportations and commodities covered by the Declaration, and extend, or terminate this Emergency Declaration if conditions warrant.

Issued this 23rd day of December 2025

Derek D. Barrs
Administrator