



Spencer J. Cox
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER
2026-01

Declaring a State of Emergency in Certain Counties Due to Crop Loss

WHEREAS, ten counties (Box Elder, Cache, Davis, Iron, Juab, Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Utah, and Weber) recently experienced freezing temperatures causing damage and loss to crop production;

WHEREAS, freezing temperatures occurred on April 3rd, 4th, 17th, and 18th;

WHEREAS, weather stations recorded temperatures below 26 degrees Fahrenheit for more than eight hours;

WHEREAS, crop production of apricots, sweet and tart cherries, plums, peaches, pears, and apples suffered 95% - 100% loss;

WHEREAS, fruit producers in these counties are experiencing a near total loss of crop production;

WHEREAS, wheat and alfalfa producers in these counties are also experiencing a loss of production;

WHEREAS, the impact of this freeze affects the agricultural producers, consumers, local markets, and the seasonal workforce who rely on the annual harvest;

WHEREAS, these conditions create a state of emergency under the Disaster Response and Recovery Act found in Title 53, Chapter 2a of the Utah Code;

WHEREAS, the declaration of emergency will allow affected agricultural producers to access resources and assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture and Utah Department of Agriculture and Food;

WHEREAS, the Disaster Response and Recovery Act found in Title 53, Chapter 2a of the Utah Code provides the governor with certain powers to respond to an emergency;

WHEREAS, Utah Code § 53-2a-204(1)(a) authorizes the governor to utilize all available resources of state government as reasonably necessary to cope with a state of emergency; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Spencer J. Cox, Governor of the State of Utah, declare a state of emergency due to the aforesaid circumstances in the counties listed above.

THIS ORDER is effective immediately and shall remain in effect for 30 days, unless the Legislature extends the state of emergency.



IN WITNESS, WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Utah. Done on this, the 15th day of May, 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Spencer J. Cox', written in a cursive style.

Spencer J. Cox
Governor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deidre M. Henderson', written in a cursive style.

Deidre M. Henderson
Lieutenant Governor