



Here is a chronological list of notable federal emergencies—declared by Congress or the President—demonstrating the United States' continual state of national or special emergency, from 1990 to 2023. This list highlights how "emergency" status has been used to justify expanded executive power, special appropriations, or suspension of ordinary constitutional procedures.

Chronological List of U.S. Federal Emergencies and Perpetual Emergency State (1990–2023)

### 1990 — Persian Gulf War Emergency

Congress and President Bush declared a national emergency in response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. [National Emergencies Act, and continued extensions related to Iraq.]

### 1995-present — National Emergency regarding Middle East Terrorism

Declared due to threats by terrorist organizations (renewed annually).

## 2001 — September 11 Attacks

After 9/11, President Bush proclaims a state of national emergency. The "War on Terror" national emergency, as well as multiple related emergencies, are still in place and renewed annually—including the 2001 emergency concerning terrorist threats, which remains active over two decades later.

## **2003** — Iraq-related Emergencies

National emergencies regarding the situation in Iraq and further executive orders about terrorism financing.

#### 2005 — Hurricane Katrina

President Bush declares emergencies in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, enabling FEMA and executive authorities to operate outside normal funding/budget restrictions.



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#### 2006 — Avian Influenza Concern

Various public health emergency declarations concerning bird flu, renewed or overlapped by later pandemics.

## 2008 — Financial Crisis/Bogus

"Banking System Emergency Measures": Federal Reserve and Treasury invoke special emergency powers to respond to the collapse of major financial institutions.

### 2009 — H1N1 (Swine Flu) Pandemic

HHS issues a public health emergency declaration, followed by a presidential proclamation enabling emergency spending and regulatory powers.

## 2010 — Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

National emergency declared to allow deployment of national resources and funding.

# **2011** — Flooding along the Mississippi River

Multiple states receive emergency declarations due to historic flooding.

# **2012** — Hurricane Sandy

President Obama declares emergencies in multiple northeastern states.

### 2014 — Ebola Crisis

U.S. Government declares a public health emergency.

## 2015 — Cybersecurity/International Hacking

National emergency declared regarding cyber-enabled activities threatening national security.



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#### 2016 — Flint Water Crisis

President Obama declares emergency for Michigan—invoking special federal funds.

### **2017** — Opioid Public Health Emergency

President Trump declares an ongoing public health emergency regarding opioid addiction—a declaration renewed to this day.

#### 2017–2020 — California and Western States Wildfires

Continuous emergency declarations for wildfire seasons, allowing the mobilization of federal resources.

### 2017 — Hurricane Maria, Harvey, Irma

Multiple hurricanes strike within months, each with major emergency declarations.

## 2018 — Continuation of post-9/11 National Emergency

President Trump renews the post-9/11 emergency, as had President Obama and Bush every year.

## 2019 — U.S.-Mexico Border National Emergency

President Trump declares a national emergency to fund the border wall, allowing transfer and use of federal funds without ordinary Congressional appropriation.

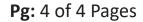
#### 2020 — COVID-19 Pandemic

President Trump issues a national emergency proclamation, followed by HHS, FEMA, and CDC emergency orders—granting vast powers and suspensions of standard rules (renewed under President Biden through 2023).

## 2021–2023 — COVID-19 Emergency Renewals

Both public health and national emergency remain in effect (officially ending May 2023, but with dozens of other perpetual "national emergencies" still running).







# Ongoing or "Perpetual" Declarations As of 2023:

39 currently active national emergencies (as tracked by the Congressional Research Service/executive orders)—some dating back to the 1970s, all renewed annually.

Continuation of International Sanctions Emergencies against various countries/actors (Iran, Russia, North Korea, Syria, etc.).

Terrorism-based national emergencies (renewed yearly from 2001-present).

Drug-related emergencies and public health emergencies for opioids and pandemic responses.

#### **Conclusion:**

The federal government is essentially operating in a state of "perpetual emergency," with overlapping declared emergencies being renewed year after year. Each new crisis, whether war, terrorism, pandemic, financial, or natural disaster, is leveraged to activate powers that suspend normal limits—never fully returning to "peacetime" footing.

This doctrine of continuous emergencies justifies the recurring and sometimes indefinite use of executive power beyond constitutional norms.

"Chief Lead," "Founder"

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