

# STATE OF MINNESOTA

Executive Department



## Governor Tim Walz

### Emergency Executive Order 22-04

#### **Providing for Relief from Regulations to Certain Motor Carriers and Drivers Operating in Minnesota**

**I, Tim Walz, Governor of the State of Minnesota**, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, issue the following Executive Order:

More than 600,000 homes and businesses in Minnesota rely on septic systems, which treat an estimated 42.3 billion gallons of wastewater per year. Properly functioning septic systems are critical to protecting our water quality, environment, and public health.

Extreme winter conditions, including the sub-zero temperatures experienced in January and February, pose potential problems for septic systems. According to data collected by the Minnesota State Climatology Office, January 2022 was the coldest January on record since 2014, with below-normal temperatures continuing through February and into March. The combination of cold weather, along with the lack of snow cover that typically serves as insulation for septic tanks, has caused septic systems to freeze throughout Minnesota. The Minnesota Onsite Wastewater Association has reported that septic service companies have been receiving a high volume of calls from homeowners in need of emergency pumping services and some companies are operating with waiting lists several weeks long.

We must take action to protect the health and safety of Minnesotans who rely on septic systems to process wastewater from daily and essential household activities and to avoid further damage to frozen septic systems.

The seasonal load restrictions, as described in Minnesota Statutes 2021, section 169.87, subdivisions 1 and 2, will go into effect on March 14, 2022 in the south and southeast zones, and on March 16, 2022 in the metro zone. Restrictions will go into effect soon in the other parts of the state. These seasonal weight restrictions on Minnesota roads will hinder the efficient removal of sewage from septic systems and increase the risk of harm caused by failing or overused septic systems.

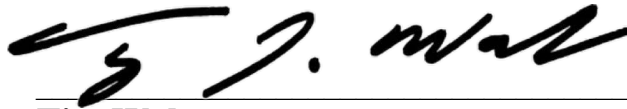
For these reasons, I order as follows:

1. A state of emergency exists in Minnesota, and vehicles used to pump or transport sewage from septic systems are exempted from the seasonal load restrictions on local and state roads imposed by Minnesota Statutes 2021, section 169.87, subdivisions 1 and 2, while providing emergency septic system pumping services.

This Executive Order is effective immediately under Minnesota Statutes 2021, section 4.035, subdivision 2. It will remain in effect until June 1, 2022.

A determination that any provision of this Executive Order is invalid will not affect the enforceability of any other provision of this Executive Order. Rather, the invalid provision will be modified to the extent necessary so that it is enforceable.

Signed on March 11, 2022.



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**Tim Walz**  
Governor

Filed According to Law:



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**Steve Simon**  
Secretary of State

Filed March 11, 2022  
Office of the Minnesota  
Secretary of State  
Steve Simon