

- Good afternoon, thank you for coming today.
- As the Minnesota Legislature reconvenes for a special session due to lack of appropriations for state government operations and services, Governor Jesse Ventura established a Shutdown team to begin contingency planning and preparations for a government shutdown, which would occur on July 1, 2001.
- The Shutdown team consists of members from the Departments of Administration, Employee Relations and Finance along with the Governor's Office.
- The team has been tasked with examining critical and/or core and non-critical state functions, notifications to employees and the public, and the process of shutting down of state government. As the Commissioner of the Department Employee Relations, I have been appointed the team's spokesperson.
- State government and its services affect virtually all citizens of Minnesota. The negative impact of a government shutdown would include:
 - Halt of highway maintenance and construction projects;
 - Closure of State parks and recreational areas;
 - Suspension of services such as drivers license issuance, driving tests, motor vehicle title and registration transactions;
 - Increased risk of food-borne disease among public due to lack of agricultural & health department inspectors;
 - Prison security risks due to reduced supervision; reduced supervision of offenders in community;
 - Limited ability to process and issue State unemployment and welfare checks;
 - Limited ability to process and issue State aid payments to local governments.



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- Except for those facilities related to delivery of critical and/or core services, all State buildings and facilities will be locked and unavailable to employees and the public unless noted otherwise.
 - Specific critical and/or core services will be maintained. These critical and/or core services are those that have a direct impact on public safety and health, and/or are necessary to prevent catastrophic loss to property or the environment. Such services include:
 - State patrol;
 - Disaster services, as provided in the event of emergencies by the Emergency Management Division;
 - Basic supervision and functions in state correctional facilities
 - Custodial care for residents of state-operated nursing homes, hospitals, veterans homes and similar facilities.
 - It is important to note that the State considers all employees to be of critical importance and are highly valued. Only certain services are being identified as non-critical.
 - In addition, since state government is Minnesota's largest single employer, everyone who has a stake in local economies could suffer if large numbers of state workers are furloughed without pay due to a shutdown.
 - We are also setting up an internet site and phone numbers to allow people to access the latest information.
 - Thank you for joining me today...I will now take any questions you may have.