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**EXECUTIVE ORDER**

**Activation of the National Guard in Support of Wildfire Suppression Efforts  
in the State of California**

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 of the Colorado Constitution and Colorado Revised Statutes §§ 28-3-104, 24-32-2100, *et seq.*, and 24-60-2902, I, Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order calling certain elements of the Colorado National Guard to state active duty and implementing the Emergency Management Assistance Compact to assist the State of California in efforts to suppress that state's wildfires.

1. Background and Need

Starting on October 20, 2007, numerous wildfires broke out across southern California, and extremely hazardous wildfire conditions continue to persist throughout that portion of the state. An aggressive attack on all wildfires has been undertaken in an effort to significantly reduce the damage to both public and private property. To date, these fires have resulted in at least seven deaths and more than 65 injuries. The fires have burned approximately 519,754 acres thus far, subjecting hundreds of thousands of Californians to mandatory evacuations. Moreover, 2,605 structures have been destroyed or damaged, with more than 21,000 additional structures threatened.

As a party to the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, C.R.S. § 24-60-2902, the State of Colorado is authorized to provide assistance to states during a disaster emergency. As Governor of a western state, I understand the need to bring to bear all available resources in fighting these natural hazards. The State of California qualifies for and has requested such assistance in fighting ongoing wildfires. To date, Colorado, through the Colorado State Forest Service, has sent thirty fire engines of varying types and capabilities. Three Incident Management Teams (IMTs) have also been assembled and have deployed. These deployments are being accomplished through cooperator agreements via the interstate wildfire compact. In addition, the 302nd Airlift Wing based at Peterson Air Force Base is sending two C-130H3

firefighting aircraft to assist in the fire suppression efforts. To further assist in this wildfire response effort, I am issuing this Executive Order, calling certain elements of the Colorado National Guard to active duty and directing the Colorado National Guard to assist the State of California.

2. Mission and Scope

- A. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 28-3-104, as commander-in-chief of military forces, I hereby employ and call to active duty certain elements of the Colorado National Guard and implement the Emergency Management Assistance Compact. The State of Colorado shall provide support personnel and resources to assist in emergency response efforts related to the wildfires located within the State of California.
- B. I hereby direct the Director of the Colorado Division of Emergency Management and the Adjutant General of the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to immediately coordinate and execute all directives set forth in this Executive Order.
- C. All verbal orders that issued in regards to this Executive Order, including the one issued on October 26, 2007, are hereby memorialized by this Executive Order and shall have the full force and effect of law as if they were contained within this Executive Order.
- D. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-32-2106, I order the encumbrance of \$6,500 from the State Disaster Emergency Fund to finance these activities. These funds shall remain available for this purpose for six months from the date of this Executive Order. The Colorado Division of Emergency Management is hereby directed to request reimbursement from the State of California or any other source permitted by law for all allowable expenses under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

3. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire thirty days from its date of signature unless extended by Executive Order.

Given under my hand and  
the Executive Seal of the  
State of Colorado this 29th  
day of October, 2007.

Bill Ritter, Jr.  
Governor