

# STATE OF COLORADO

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

**D 2012-018**

## EXECUTIVE ORDER

### Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to the Springer Fire

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to Colorado Constitution, article IV, section 13 and relevant portions of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act of 1992, C.R.S. § 24-32-2100, et seq., I, Governor John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order declaring a state of disaster emergency due to the wildfire in Park County, Colorado.

#### I. Background and Purpose

On Sunday, June, 17, 2012, a wildfire ("Springer Fire") started in Park County near Eleven Mile Canyon. The fire grew rapidly being fueled by extremely dry vegetation, low relative humidity, high temperatures, and windy conditions. The fire originated on U.S. Forest Service ownership but private land in the vicinity puts many individuals and private values at risk. As of the morning of June 18, the fire has spread to approximately 400 acres on federal lands. The following areas and subdivisions are threatened: Wagon Tongue, Beaver Ranch, Camp Alexander, 11 mile Campground, Hidden Valley, Echo Valley Forest Glen, Blue Mountain, and others. Park County and local fire department resources have been fully engaged in fighting the wildfire in cooperation with the USFS. Predicted hot weather and strong gusty winds coupled with abundant dry fuels pose a real threat of the fire spreading toward state and private values at risk and indicate an aggressive response is essential.

The Governor is responsible for meeting the dangers to the state and people presented by disasters. The Colorado Disaster Emergency Act of 1992, defines a disaster as "the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damages, injury or loss of life or property resulting from any natural cause or cause of human origin, including but not limited to . . . fire." C.R.S. § 24-32-2103(1.5). The Springer Fire's proximity to sub-developments, the town of Lake George, and 11 Mile State Park poses an imminent danger to life and property and, therefore, constitutes a disaster for the purposes of the Act. In response to this disaster, on June 17, 2012, I declared a disaster emergency.

## II. Declaration and Directives

- A. The Springer Fire constitutes a disaster emergency under C.R.S. § 24-32-2103. My verbal order of June 17, 2012, declaring a disaster emergency is hereby memorialized by this Executive Order and shall have the full force and effect of law as if it were contained within this Executive Order.
- B. The State Emergency Operations Plan is hereby activated. All State departments and agencies shall take whatever actions may be required and requested by the Director of the Division of Emergency Management or the Colorado State Forest Service, including provision of appropriate staff and equipment as necessary.
- C. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-32-2106(4), the funds in the Disaster Emergency Fund are hereby found insufficient to pay for the fire suppression efforts related to the Springer Fire. Therefore, it is ordered that \$1,000,000 be transferred from the General Fund appropriations in the Fiscal Year 2011-12 to the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, Other Medical Services, Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 State Contribution Payment line item to the Disaster Emergency Fund. See 2011 Colorado Session Laws, Ch. 335. It is further ordered that \$1,000,000 from the Disaster Emergency Fund is encumbered to pay for the fire suppression, response, and recovery effort related to the Springer Fire since its inception. The Colorado State Forester, working in conjunction with the Director of the Colorado Division of Emergency Management, is hereby authorized and directed to allocate the funding to the appropriate government agencies. These funds shall remain available for this purpose for one year from the date of this Executive Order, and any unexpended funds shall remain in the Disaster Emergency Fund.
- D. The Director of the Colorado Division of Emergency Management and the Colorado State Forest Service are authorized and directed to coordinate application to the federal government for funds available for reimbursement and to coordinate application for any other funds available related to this disaster emergency.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire thirty days from June 17, 2012 unless extended further by Executive Order, except that the funds described in paragraph II(C) above shall remain available for the described purposes for one year from the date of this Executive Order.



GIVEN under my hand and the  
Executive Seal of the State of  
Colorado this twenty-first day of  
June, 2012.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John W. Hickenlooper", is written over the printed name.

John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor