

STATE OF COLORADO

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John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

D 2016-008

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Declaring a Disaster Emergency due to the Beulah Hill Fire in Pueblo County, Authorizing State Funding for Response and Recovery, and Providing Access to the State Individual Family Grant Program

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to relevant portions of C.R.S. § 28-3-104, relevant portions of C.R.S. § 24-33.5-1106, relevant portions of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.* and to relevant portions of Article IV Section 2 of the Colorado Constitution, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order declaring a disaster emergency due to the Beulah Hill Fire in Pueblo County, authorizing state funding for response to the fire and recovery from its impacts, and providing access to the State Individual Family Grant Program.

I. Background and Purpose

The afternoon of Monday, October 3, 2016 a fire ignited near the Town of Beulah in Pueblo County. The fire was named the Beulah Hill Fire. The fire spread rapidly, placing lives and property at risk, and exceeding Pueblo County's fire suppression capabilities. In response, Pueblo County declared a local emergency.

Because it seemed likely the fire would continue to grow, on October 3, 2016 at approximately 2:00 PM, the Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management proactively authorized implementation of the All-Hazards Resource Mobilization System, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-705.4. In the early morning hours of October 4, 2015, the Division of Fire Prevention and Control declared the fire eligible for funding from the Emergency Fire Fund, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-1220. Later in the day, the Federal Emergency Management Agency declared the fire eligible for the Fire Management Assistance Grant Program, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 5187.

As predicted, the fire continued to grow, putting lives and property at risk. The Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management determined that the Emergency Fire Fund had been depleted earlier in 2016 due to other fire fighting operations. Accordingly, the Division requested activation of the State Emergency Operations Plan. I verbally approved the request on October 4, 2016 at approximately 10:00 AM.

As of the afternoon of October 4, 2016, the Beulah Hill Fire had burned over 4,800 acres and continued to threaten the Town of Beulah in Pueblo County. Containment was at zero (0) percent. More than 779 homes were placed under mandatory evacuation, displacing more than 1,900 residents. Several structures, including eight homes were destroyed in the initial hours of the fire.

II. Declaration and Directives

- A. This fire constitutes a disaster emergency under C.R.S. § 24-33.5-704. My verbal order of October 4, 2016, 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 herein.
- 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 or Acting Director of the Office of Emergency Management, including provision of appropriate staff and equipment as necessary.
- C. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-706(4)(b), moneys in the Disaster Emergency Fund are hereby found insufficient to pay for fire suppression efforts related to the Beulah Hill Fire. Therefore, it is ordered that \$4,800,000 be transferred into the Disaster Emergency Fund from the Controlled Maintenance Trust Fund. It is further ordered that \$4,800,000 be encumbered in the Disaster Emergency Fund to pay for the fire suppression, response, and recovery efforts related to the Beulah Hill Fire since the inception of the fire. Of this encumbered amount, up to \$100,000 is authorized in accordance with C.R.S. § 24-33.5-1106(2) for grants of up to \$5,000 to meet necessary, disaster-related expenses of individuals or families whose primary residence was destroyed in the Beulah Hill Fire. Further, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-705.4(5), the Emergency Management Director is hereby authorized and directed to allocate these funds to the appropriate government agencies and to execute awards, purchase orders, or other mechanisms to effect the allocation of these funds. These funds shall remain available for this purpose for

thirty-six months from October 4, 2016, and any unexpended funds shall remain in the Disaster Emergency Fund.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire thirty days from October 4, 2016, unless extended further by Executive Order, except that the funds described in paragraph II(C) above shall remain available for the described purposes for thirty-six months from October 4, 2016.

GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado this sixth day of
October, 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Hickenlooper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "H".

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor