



## D 2020 196

### EXECUTIVE ORDER

#### **Extending Executive Order D 2020 168 Declaring that Conditions of Extreme Fire Hazard Exist and Ordering Temporary Fire Restrictions in the State of Colorado**

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to Article IV, Section 2 of the Colorado Constitution and C.R.S. § 24-33.5-1225, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order extending Executive Order D 2020 168 until September 30, 2020, declaring that conditions of extreme fire hazard exist and ordering temporary fire restrictions in the State of Colorado to reduce the risk of new fires.

#### **I. Background and Purpose**

High temperatures and dry conditions have resulted in high fire danger and extreme fire behavior throughout much of Colorado. The entire state continues to experience abnormally dry or drought conditions, and as of September 17, 2020, approximately 89 percent of the State is in severe, extreme, or exceptional drought conditions as classified by the United States Drought Monitor. On June 22, 2020, I activated the State's Drought Mitigation and Response Plan, which formalized a cabinet-level Drought Task Force as well as an Agricultural Impact Task Force to assess and track impacts of the drought and increase coordination across our local, State, and federal partners. Already this year, 941 wildfires have burned over 334,543 acres across the State. These conditions attest to the continuing threat to life, health, and property posed by wildfires on Colorado's public and private lands. As a result of Executive Order D 2020 168, temporary fire restrictions are in place across the State of Colorado to reduce the risk of new fires.

As of September 16, 2020, the Pine Gulch Fire in Mesa and Garfield Counties has burned 139,007 acres, making it the largest fire in Colorado history. The Cameron Peak Fire in Larimer County has burned 102,596 acres, making it the fourth largest fire in state history. The Grizzly Creek Fire in Garfield and Eagle Counties has burned 32,431 acres, and forced the closure of Interstate 70 for fourteen days. The Williams Fork Fire in Grand County has burned 12,157 acres. The Grizzly Creek Fire, Williams Fork Fire, and Cameron Peak Fire are all believed to be human caused. Over 1400 homes have been evacuated across the State as a result of the Cameron Peak and Grizzly Creek Fires.

Given these facts, conditions of extreme fire hazard continue to exist across the State. The State's top priorities are protecting life, property, and critical infrastructure from the threat of fires. Additionally, due to drought conditions, fire danger, and resource shortages due to

COVID-19 concerns and fires burning in other western states, it is critical to proactively prevent new fire starts in Colorado. This Executive Order extends Executive Order D 2020 168 until September 30, 2020, which temporarily restricts fires in the State of Colorado, with limited exceptions, to reduce the risk of new fires and protect health and safety.

**III. Duration**

Executive Order D 2020 168, as extended by this Executive Order, shall expire on September 30, 2020, unless extended further by Executive Order. In all other respects, Executive Order D 2020 168 shall remain in full force and effect as originally promulgated.



GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this eighteenth day of September, 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jared Polis  
Governor