



## D 2021 123

### EXECUTIVE ORDER

#### **Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to the Muddy Slide Fire in Routt County**

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 the relevant portions of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.*, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order declaring a state of disaster emergency due the Muddy Slide Fire in Routt County, enabling State agencies to coordinate for fire suppression, response, consequence management, and recovery efforts.

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

The Governor is responsible for meeting the dangers to the State and people presented by disasters. C.R.S. § 24-33.5-704(1). The Colorado Disaster Emergency Act defines a disaster as “the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, 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 § 24-33.5-703(3).

The Muddy Slide Fire started on June 20, 2021, in Routt County, on United States Forest Service Land west of Kremmling, Colorado. On June 22, 2021, the fire grew to over 3,000 acres, expanded onto state and private land, and roughly 25 homes were evacuated. The Muddy Slide Fire was 0% contained. At approximately 10:00 AM on June 23, 2021, the Division of Fire Prevention and Control determined that the Muddy Slide Fire had exceeded county capacity and was eligible for state responsibility per the Emergency Fire Fund criteria. The Emergency Fire Fund currently has sufficient resources to pay for the State share of suppression costs since June 23, 2021.

On June 23, 2021, at approximately 4:34 PM, I verbally declared a disaster emergency for the Muddy Slide Fire in Routt County and activated the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Plan.

As of July 12, 2021, the Muddy Slide Fire burned 4,093 acres and was 50% contained.

#### **II. Declarations and Directives**

- A. The Muddy Slide Fire and associated impacts constitute a disaster emergency under C.R.S § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.* My verbal order of June 23, 2021, 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 or Acting Director of the Office of Emergency Management pursuant to the Emergency Support Function 5 Annex of the State Emergency Operations Plan, including provision of appropriate staff and equipment as necessary.

**III. Duration**

This Executive Order shall expire thirty (30) days from June 23, 2021, unless extended further by Executive Order.



GIVEN under my hand and  
the Executive Seal of the  
State of Colorado, this  
sixteenth day of July, 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jared Polis'.

Jared Polis  
Governor