

D 005 01

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to a Severe Winter Storms and the Resulting Impact on Certain Utilities and Local Governments

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado, and pursuant to relevant portions of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, §§ 24-32-2100 *et seq.*, C.R.S., I, Bill Owens, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order declaring a state of disaster emergency.

1. Background and Need

On April 11, 2001 through April 15, 2001 and on April 20, 2001 through April 22, 2001 the State of Colorado suffered severe winter storms covering most of the eastern plains and front-range counties of Colorado. This late spring snow was exceptionally heavy and thick; there were significant drifts and extremely strong winds. These storms caused significant damage to power and other utility lines, poles and structures, as well as to certain governmental structures. The resulting power outages and necessity to repair the damaged structures overwhelmed the resources of the affected rural electric associations and certain county, municipal and special district governments. The economic impact of the storms has been estimated in excess of \$4.9 million.

These storm conditions constitute an occurrence of property damages within the meaning of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, § 24-32-2103 (1.5) C.R.S. By signing this Executive Order, I do hereby declare that a state of disaster emergency has existed since April 11th, 2001 and activate the State Emergency Operations Plan.

2. Mission and Scope

This Executive Order also orders the following:

A. The expenditure of funds from the State Disaster Emergency Fund and the transfer of unexpended surplus from all state departments and agencies as required to meet emergency needs.

B. The authorization of all state departments and agencies to take whatever actions are required and requested by the Colorado Office of Emergency Management within the Colorado State Emergency Operations Plan to meet the emergency needs.

C. All funds currently held in the Colorado Disaster Emergency Fund shall remain within that fund beyond the termination of the state fiscal year on June 30th, 2001 and shall remain within that fund until expended or until further Executive Order.

D. The Director of the Colorado Office of Emergency Management is hereby authorized and directed to coordinate application to the federal government for funds for public assistance disaster relief and for other funding related to the disaster emergency.

E. All previous and future verbal orders, until memorialized in a written order amending this Executive Order, which I may make in reference to this state disaster emergency shall have the full force and effect as if they were contained within this Executive Order.

3. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire thirty (30) 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 8th
day of May, 2001.

Bill Owens
Governor