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EXECUTIVE ORDER

Declaring a Statewide Disaster Emergency Due to Wildfires and Ordering to State Active Duty Certain Elements of the Colorado National Guard

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado, and in particular Article IV, Section 5 of the Colorado Constitution, and Sections 24-32-2100 *et seq.*, and 23-30-308 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, I, Bill Owens, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order declaring a state of disaster emergency and ordering to state active duty certain elements of the Colorado National Guard.

1. Background & Need.

Colorado is experiencing the most dangerous wildfire season in the history of our state. Extraordinary measures are necessary to protect the public health, ensure public safety and render relief for those most severely impacted. I hereby declare a statewide disaster emergency due to wildfires and order to state active duty certain elements of the Colorado National Guard.

Since April 23, 2002, over 250,000 acres have burned throughout the state. The frequency and number of wildfires since this date has stretched the state's fire suppression personnel dangerously thin and, for that reason, each of these wildfires has posed an imminent threat to life and property. Accordingly, I am declaring that wildfires occurring since April 23, 2002 constitute a disaster for purposes of § 24-32-2103, C.R.S.

We must remain mindful that, technically speaking, the fire season has yet begun. Meanwhile the continuing drought along with unseasonably high temperatures is increasing the risk and danger of future wildfires throughout the state. For this reason, I am declaring a statewide disaster emergency due to the imminent threat of future wildfires.

2. Mission and Scope.

- A. Wildfires occurring after April 23, 2002 constitute a disaster for purposes of § 24-32-2103, C.R.S.;

- B. The threat of future wildfires constitutes a statewide disaster for purposes of § 24-32-2103, C.R.S.;
- C. In accordance with this disaster emergency, I hereby order the following:
- i) The transfer of funds into the Disaster Emergency Fund as ordered in the “Funding Directive” section and the expenditure of funds from the Disaster Emergency Fund.
 - ii) The state activation of certain elements of the Colorado National Guard as may be determined from time to time by the Colorado Office of Emergency Management;
 - iii) 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;
 - iv) 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. Funding Directive

It is the policy of the state that funds shall always be available to meet disaster emergencies. C.R.S. § 24-32-2106(1). I hereby find that the demands placed upon regularly appropriated funds and the disaster emergency fund are unreasonably great. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-32-2106(4), I hereby order the transfer of \$10 million from the TABOR Emergency Reserve into the Disaster Emergency Fund. The Director of the Office of State Planning and Budgeting shall determine which particular TABOR Emergency Reserve accounts shall be deducted.

4. Duration.

This Executive Order shall expire thirty (30) days from the date of its execution unless extended by Executive Order.

GIVEN under my hand and
the Executive Seal of the
State of Colorado this 10th
day of June, 2002.

Bill Owens
Governor

