



# D 2020 208

## EXECUTIVE ORDER

### Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to the Cameron Peak Fire in Larimer 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 Cameron Peak Fire in Larimer County, enabling State agencies to coordinate, and making resources available 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 Cameron Peak Fire started on August 13, 2020, in Larimer County on United States Forest Service Land fifteen miles south of Redfeather Lakes. On August 20, the fire had grown to 16,461 acres and was zero percent contained. On August 21, 2020, the Lewstone Fire started on private land in Larimer County, and the combination of these two fires greatly reduced local response capacity. As of August 21, 175 homes had been evacuated due to the Cameron Peak Fire. On September 6, the Cameron Peak Fire grew to 40,813 acres and approximately 5,500 residents were under mandatory evacuation.

At approximately 4:15 PM on September 6, 2020, I verbally declared a disaster emergency for the Cameron Peak Fire in Larimer County and activated the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Plan.

Because of the severity of the fire and additional private and State properties at risk, on September 6, 2020, at approximately 5:35 PM the Division of Fire Prevention and Control requested a federal Fire Management Assistance Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the Cameron Peak Fire. On September 6 at approximately 6:43 PM, the request for a Fire Management Assistance Grant was approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Regional Administrator.

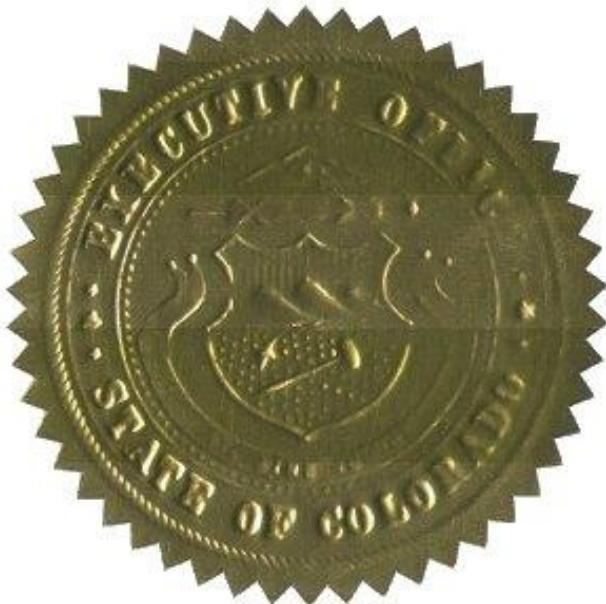
As of September 30, 2020, the Cameron Peak Fire burned 125,006 acres and was thirty percent contained and over 6,200 homes had been evacuated.

## **II. Declarations and Directives**

- A. The Cameron Peak Fire and associated impacts constitute a disaster emergency under C.R.S § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.* My verbal order of September 6, 2020, 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.
- C. Funds in the Emergency Fire Fund are hereby found to be insufficient to pay for the State fire suppression, response, consequence management, and recovery efforts related to the Cameron Peak Fire. I encumber six million, seven hundred thirty-nine thousand, five hundred dollars (\$6,739,500) from the Disaster Emergency Fund, established in C.R.S. § 24-33.5-706(2)(a), for costs associated with suppression resources related to the Cameron Peak Fire since September 1, 2020 and the State's fire suppression, response, consequence management, and recovery efforts related to the Cameron Peak Fire since September 6, 2020.
- D. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-705.4(5), the Director of the Office of Emergency Management is hereby authorized and directed to allocate the funding to the appropriate government agencies and non-profit organizations and execute awards, purchase orders, or other mechanisms to effect the allocation of the funds. The funds described in section II(C) above shall remain available for this purpose until thirty-six (36) months from the date of this Executive Order, and any unexpended funds shall remain in the Disaster Emergency Fund.
- E. The Division of Fire Prevention and Control, via its fire billing practices, is authorized to coordinate applications for any funds available related to this disaster emergency. Specifically, the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control is directed to seek reimbursement and make payments as needed to agencies providing assistance related to the Cameron Peak Fire.

### III. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire thirty (30) days from September 6, 2020, unless extended further by Executive Order, except that the funds described in Section II.C above shall remain available for the described purposes for thirty-six (36) months from the date of this Executive Order.



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

Jared Polis  
Governor