

STATE OF COLORADO

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

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EXECUTIVE ORDER

Roy Romer
Governor

PROCLAMATION DECLARING A DISASTER EMERGENCY DUE TO WILDFIRES

- WHEREAS, Colorado has experienced unusually dry conditions this summer, resulting in an extreme danger from wildfires across the state; and
- WHEREAS, wildfires are currently burning in areas throughout the state; and
- WHEREAS, an executive order has been issued banning open burning in the state because of these emergency conditions; and
- WHEREAS, these wildfires have resulted in a loss of life and property and continue to pose an imminent threat of damage, injury and loss of life and property; and
- WHEREAS, the State Emergency Operations Plan and the State Emergency Response Team have been activated; and
- WHEREAS, the state and its local governments are responsible for certain fire suppression activities and for taking certain action to mitigate the impacts of, prepare for, respond to, and recover from events that may be caused by wildfires; and
- WHEREAS, the demands placed upon funds regularly appropriated to state and local agencies in coping with these wildfires are unreasonably great; and
- WHEREAS, the Emergency Fire Fund, which is funded by voluntary contributions from counties across the state and is administered by the State Forest Service, is insufficient to cover the costs of fire suppression activities; and
- WHEREAS, the funds available in the Disaster Emergency Fund are insufficient to cover the costs of the suppression activities; and

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WHEREAS, pursuant to §24-32-2106, C.R.S., the Governor may make funds available from the Disaster Emergency Fund and may transfer and expend funds appropriated for other purposes to meet the needs of the disaster emergency if the funds regularly appropriated to state and local agencies are insufficient; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to §23-30-303, C.R.S., the Disaster Emergency Fund may be used for the purpose of preventing and suppressing forest fires; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Disaster Emergency Council concurs with the findings and actions set forth in this Executive Order; and

WHEREAS, the conditions under which funds can be transferred and used to meet the needs of disaster emergency have been satisfied as a result of the emergency described.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Roy Romer, Governor of the State of Colorado, under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Colorado, including §24-32-2104, C.R.S., the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act of 1992, do hereby declare that a state of disaster emergency exists in the State of Colorado, due to the reasons set forth above, and therefore DO HEREBY ORDER THAT:

1. The State Emergency Operations Plan and the State Emergency Response Team continue to be activated as necessary and remain on alert for the duration of this Executive Order.
2. \$500,000 be transferred from the state's General Fund unrestricted reserve into the state Disaster Emergency Fund, to support the state's fire suppression activities and other disaster emergency needs of the state and its local governments as a result of wildfires.
3. These funds shall be replaced from the fiscal year 1993-1994 General Fund reversions when they become available.
4. Fund balances are to remain in this account until December 31, 1994, when funds not expended for the purposes intended shall revert to the state General Fund.

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5. Prior to expending the funds transferred to the Disaster Emergency Fund, the director of the Office of Emergency Management shall obtain the approval of the Governor or the Chief of Staff of the Office of the Governor.
6. A report be provided to the Governor, the Governor's Disaster Emergency Council, and the General Assembly identifying how the funds were used once all transactions have been completed.
7. All state departments and agencies, local governments and special districts potentially affected by the imminent threat of wildfires throughout Colorado are directed to intensify their preparedness and mitigation efforts to address this continuing natural hazard and respond to those events that may occur. These efforts should be coordinated with the state's Office of Emergency Management.
8. This Executive Order shall expire after thirty (30) days unless otherwise extended.

GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State
of Colorado, this eighth day
of July, 1994.



Roy Romer
Governor

