

D 022 02

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Concerning the Statewide Disaster Emergency Due to Wildfires and the Open Burning Ban and Amending Executive Orders D 014 02, D 015 02, D 016 02 and D 017 02

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 that a state of disaster emergency continues to exist due to the imminent threat of wildfires and order the extension of the statewide open burning ban.

1. Background & Need.

Colorado is facing the most dangerous wildfire season in state history. I have issued the following Executive Orders to respond to this disaster emergency. On June 10, 2002, I issued Executive Order D 014 02 declaring a disaster emergency due to the occurrence of wildfires and the imminent threat of future wildfires. On June 10, 2002, I also issued Executive Order D 015 02 banning open burning throughout the state. Executive Order D 016 02 amended the open burning ban and Executive Order D 019 ordered the transfer of an additional \$5 million from the TABOR Emergency Reserve into the Disaster Emergency Fund. On July 10, 2002 I issued Executive Order D 021 02 extending the state of disaster emergency due to wildfires and continued the statewide fire ban.

Since July 10, 2002, wildfires have continued to be a serious risk to human life and property within the State of Colorado. The Big Elk fire, near Estes Park, burned 4,413 acres and tragically caused three deaths. The Long Mesa fire, located in Mesa Verde National Park, burned 2,601 acres and destroyed seven structures. Most recently, the Panorama fire, near Carbondale burned 1,700 acres and destroyed four homes. Meanwhile, drought conditions continue throughout most of the state.

Given these conditions, the risk of additional wildfires presents an imminent threat to the life and property of the people of Colorado. Extraordinary measures are necessary to protect public health and render relief for those most severely impacted by these wildfires. Accordingly, I find that a statewide disaster emergency continues to exist due to the imminent threat of wildfires and order the extension of the statewide fire ban

2. Mission and Scope.

- A. I find that a state of disaster emergency continues to exist due to the occurrence of wildfires and the imminent threat of future wildfires. I hereby amend Executive Orders D 014 01 and D 021 02 and order that each of my directives stated in those orders continue.
- B. I extend the statewide ban on open burning and order that each of my directives stated in Executive Orders D 015 02, D 016 02 and D 021 02 continue.

3. 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 August,
2002.

Bill Owens
Governor