

STATE OF COLORADO

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John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

D 2012-051

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to the Cedar Knob Fire and other Wildfires in Moffat County

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to relevant portions of C.R.S. § 28-3-104 and relevant portions of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.*, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order memorializing my verbal order of July 11, 2012 declaring a state of disaster emergency due to the Cedar Knob Fire and other wildfires in Moffat County, Colorado and making resources available to fight the fire.

I. Background and Purpose

The Governor is responsible for meeting the dangers to the state and people presented by disasters. The Colorado Disaster Emergency Act defines a disaster as “the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damages, 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).

On July 10, 2012, Moffat County had multiple fire starts. Moffat County requested State assistance since they did not have the resources to fully size-up or address some of the smaller fires. Moffat County worked with the BLM to utilize federal resources to assist. Moffat County utilized Incident Command Teams and WERF for the two largest and most active fires (Cedar Knob and Cold fires). All of the fires were on state/private lands with minimal to no federal land involved. Moffat County requested one EFF declaration to cover all of the fires. The EFF assessment was completed on July 11, 2012 and verbal approval was given for the EFF request and associated declaration of disaster emergency at 1052 hours on July 11, 2012. Due to the volume of disaster emergencies occurring during this period, this written executive order was delayed.

II. Declaration and Directives

- A. Fires in Moffat County, including both the Cedar Knob and Cold fires, constituted a disaster emergency under C.R.S. §§ 24-33.5-701, 705. My verbal order of July 11, 2012,

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 was activated. All State departments and agencies were authorized to take whatever actions were required and requested by the Director of the Office of Emergency Management, including provision of appropriate staff and equipment as necessary.

- C. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-706(4), \$110,000 from the Disaster Emergency Fund is hereby encumbered to pay for the fire suppression, response, and recovery effort related to the Moffat County Fires since their inception. The Director of the Office of Emergency Management is hereby authorized and directed to allocate the funding to the appropriate government agencies and execute awards, purchase orders or other mechanisms to effect the allocation of the funds. These funds shall remain available for this purpose for eighteen months from July 11, 2012, and any unexpended funds shall remain in the Disaster Emergency Fund.

III. Duration

The verbal executive order of July 11, 2012 expired on August, 10, 2012. The funds described in paragraph II(C) above shall remain available for the described purposes for eighteen months from July 11, 2012. This executive order shall remain in full force and effect until amended or extended by further executive order.



GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado this seventh
day of December, 2012.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John W. Hickenlooper".

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor