

STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

136 State Capitol Building
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone (303) 866 - 2471
Fax (303) 866 - 2003



John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

D 2013-032

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to the Imminent Winter Storm

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 declaring a disaster emergency due to the imminent winter storm.

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 . . . storm.” C.R.S. § 24-33.5-703(3).

The National Weather Service has issued winter storm warnings for multiple regions of Colorado because of a cold upper level disturbance that has moved into the State. This storm system is forecasted to remain over the region through Wednesday, December 4, and to drop Fahrenheit temperatures into the single digits with overnight lows well below zero degrees.

Strong winds ahead of this weather system are predicted to impede visibility and make travel difficult. Snow is expected to intensify from north to south across the mountains and spread into the foothills and plains this afternoon and evening. The snow is anticipated to be moderate to heavy, at times, especially in and around the mountains and foothills. With the slow movement of the storm system, snow is expected to continue through much of Wednesday, December 4, before gradually decreasing later that day.

Total snow accumulations are projected to be 1 to 3 feet for the mountains, 6 to 12 inches for the western urban corridor, and 2 to 6 inches for the rest of the plains. Significant amounts of

snow are likely to make travel extremely dangerous, especially given the recent road damage caused by the historic flooding in September. Due to the scope and duration of this imminent winter storm and the need to respond quickly to any emergency situations, I verbally declared a disaster emergency today at 1109 hours and activated the State Emergency Operations Plan.

II. Declaration and Directives

- A. The imminent winter storm constitutes a disaster emergency under C.R.S. § 24-33.5-704. My verbal order of today, at 1109 hours, 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, including provision of appropriate staff and equipment as necessary.
- C. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 28-3-104, my verbal orders of today, at 1109 hours, activating the National Guard and authorizing the utilization of National Guard assets for storm-related missions is hereby memorialized by this Executive Order and shall have the full force and effect of law as if it was contained within this Executive Order.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire thirty days from December 3, 2013, unless extended further by Executive Order.



GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado this third day of
December, 2013.

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

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor