

# STATE OF COLORADO

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

## D 2017-006

### EXECUTIVE ORDER

#### **Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to the Logan Fire in Logan and Phillips Counties**

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to the Colorado Constitution, Article IV, Section 2, and pursuant to the 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 state of disaster emergency due to the Logan Fire in Logan and Phillips Counties and authorizing state funding for response to 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 damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural cause or cause of human origin, including but not limited to" wildfire C.R.S. § 24-33.5-703(3).

Mid-day March 6, 2017, a fire was reported in Logan County. At the time, most of eastern Colorado was under a red flag warning due to high fire danger. A high wind warning was also in effect, with wind gusts around 50 miles per hour. These conditions allowed the fire to grow and spread rapidly, and local capabilities were quickly overwhelmed. Schools and homes were ordered to evacuate. The fire spread east to neighboring Phillips County. Fires were also reported in other Colorado Counties, as well as western Kansas. By early evening, four structures, including three homes, as well as 30,000 acres, had burned. The State Emergency Operations Center activated to fulfill requests for an Incident Management Team, fire engines, and caches of radios. Logan County verbally declared a local emergency March 6, 2017, and ratified the decision in writing March 7, 2017.

At approximately 9:00 p.m. on March 6, 2017, I verbally declared a disaster emergency for wildfire in Logan and Phillips Counties and activated the State of Colorado Hazard and Incident Response and Recovery Plan, also known as the State Emergency Operations Plan.

II. Declarations and Directives

- A. The Logan Fire and associated impacts constitute a disaster emergency under C.R.S § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.* My verbal order of March 6, 2017 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 order.
- B. The State of Colorado Hazard and Incident Response and Recovery Plan, also known as 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 Colorado Hazard and Incident Response and Recovery Plan, including provision of appropriate staff and equipment as necessary.
- C. I hereby encumber \$150,000 in the Disaster Emergency Fund to pay for the fire suppression, response and recovery efforts related to the Logan Fire since March 6, 2017.
- 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. These funds shall remain available for this purpose until sixty (60) months from the date of this Order, and any unexpended funds shall remain in the Disaster Emergency Fund.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire thirty days from March 6, 2017 unless extended further by Executive Order, except that the funds described in paragraph II(C) above shall remain available for the described purposes for sixty (60) months from the date of this Executive Order.



GIVEN under my hand and  
Executive Seal of the State of  
Colorado this twentieth day of  
March, 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "John W. Hickenlooper". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor