

# STATE OF COLORADO

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

## D 2017-007

### EXECUTIVE ORDER

#### **Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to the Sunshine Fire in Boulder County and Authorizing Deployment of the Colorado National Guard**

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 Sunshine Fire in Boulder County, enabling state agencies to coordinate response and recovery efforts, and making resources available for response and recovery activities.

Pursuant to the Colorado Constitution, Article IV, Section 5, and pursuant to C.R.S. § 28-3-104, I also hereby authorize deploying the Colorado National Guard for the purpose of responding to the Sunshine Fire in Boulder County.

#### **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).

In the early morning hours of March 19, 2017, Boulder County was notified of a wildfire near the west side of the City of Boulder. The fire quickly began to spread and, due to ongoing dry conditions and expected red flag conditions later in the day, aggressive response was initiated. Over 1,000 homes were placed under immediate, mandatory evacuation. Shortly after 4:00 a.m., Boulder requested assistance from Colorado National Guard Blackhawk and Chinook helicopters to assist in fire suppression efforts. Boulder’s incident management team (IMT) was activated, and other teams across the state were asked to provide additional support. The Division of Fire Prevention and Control determined that the Sunshine Fire is eligible for access to the Emergency Fire Fund to cover the direct fire suppression costs of the Sunshine Fire pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-1220(2)(b).

At approximately 4:50 a.m. on March 19, 2017, I verbally declared a disaster emergency for the Sunshine Fire and activated the State of Colorado Hazard and Incident Response and Recovery Plan, also known as the State Emergency Operations Plan.

I further verbally authorized deployment and use of the Colorado National Guard for wildland fire suppression in Boulder County.

II. Declarations and Directives

- A. The Sunshine Fire and associated impacts constitute a disaster emergency under C.R.S § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.* My verbal orders of March 19, 2017 are hereby memorialized by this Executive Order and shall have the full force and effect of law as if 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. The cost of National Guard assets for fire suppression activities shall be reimbursed from the Emergency Fire Fund.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire thirty days from March 19, 2017, unless extended further by Executive Order.



GIVEN under my hand and  
Executive Seal of the State of  
Colorado this 23rd day of  
March, 2017.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John W. Hickenlooper".

John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor