

# STATE OF COLORADO

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John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

## D 2017-008

### EXECUTIVE ORDER

#### **Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to the May 2017 Storms and Flooding in Bent, Custer, Fremont, Huerfano, Otero and Pueblo Counties 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 Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order declaring a disaster emergency due to heavy rains, snow, mudslides, debris flows, and flooding between May 8 and May 13 in Bent, Custer, Fremont, Huerfano, Otero and Pueblo Counties. My declaration will enable state agencies to coordinate response and recovery efforts, and make resources available for response 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 May 2017 storms and flooding in Pueblo 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 fire, flood . . . storm . . . .” C.R.S. § 24-33.5-703(3).

Beginning Monday May 8 through May 13, multiple storms affected the south and southeast areas of the state. The storms caused significant impacts including power outages, air rescues, evacuations, sheltering, school delays and closures, and affected access into and egress from populated areas. The storms damaged private property and utilities, roads, bridges, and culverts. Crews worked diligently to restore power and implement preventative measures

such as sandbagging and removing mud, debris and sediment in an effort to prevent additional damage.

At approximately 8:40 p.m. on May 10, 2017, I verbally declared a disaster emergency for this event in Bent, Custer, Fremont, Huerfano, Otero and Pueblo Counties 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 to assist with evacuations related to storms and flooding in Pueblo County.

## II. Declarations and Directives

- A. The May 2017 storms and flooding and associated impacts constitute a disaster emergency under C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.* My verbal order of May 10, 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 Five Annex of the Colorado Hazard and Incident Response and Recovery Plan, including provision of appropriate staff and equipment as necessary.
- C. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-706(4), I hereby encumber \$20,000 from the Disaster Emergency Fund to pay for the response of this disaster emergency.
- 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.
- E. If applicable, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is authorized and directed to coordinate application to the federal government for funds available for reimbursement and to coordinate application for any other funds available related to this disaster emergency.
- F. My verbal order of May 10, 2017 activating the National Guard and authorizing use of National Guard assets for an evacuation mission 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.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire thirty days from May 10, 2017 unless extended further by Executive Order.



GIVEN under my hand and  
Executive Seal of the State of  
Colorado this 26th day of  
May, 2017.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "John W. Hickenlooper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping tail.

John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor