

STATE OF COLORADO

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John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

D 2017-014

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to the May 2017 Snow and Heavy Rains in Jefferson, Boulder, Larimer and Weld 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 snow and heavy rains in Jefferson, Boulder, Larimer and Weld Counties. My declaration will enable state agencies to coordinate response 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 snow and heavy rains.

I. Background and Purpose

The Governor is responsible for meeting the dangers to the state and people presented by disasters. Pursuant to the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, a disaster is "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). The Governor may order the deployment of resources in connection with emergency incidents beyond local capabilities if necessary to protect life. C.R.S. § 24-33.5-705.4.

Beginning May 17, 2017, a major rain and snow storm moved through the north-central and northeast areas of the State. The storm continued through May 22, 2017. The National Weather Service predicted significant amounts of snow along the I-25 corridor from Monument

Hill to the Wyoming border. Because these conditions created an imminent threat of injury, loss of life, and major property damage, the Director of the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management within the Department of Public Safety directed the State to take measures to prepare to rescue people who might be stranded in the storm. The State engaged the National Guard to transport Small Unit Support Vehicles to Longmont and north of Colorado Springs in the event that the National Guard needed to rescue people. Due to temperatures remaining higher than expected, the snowfall in the corridor was lower than the National Weather Service had predicted. Such rescue efforts were therefore not ultimately necessary.

At approximately 10:00 a.m. on May 18, 2017, I verbally declared a disaster emergency for this event in Jefferson, Boulder, Larimer and Weld 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 rescues related to the snowstorm in Jefferson, Boulder, Larimer and Weld Counties.

II. Declarations and Directives

- a. The May 2017 snow and heavy rains and associated impacts constitute a disaster emergency under C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.* This Executive Order memorializes my verbal order of May 18, 2017 declaring a disaster emergency, which shall have the full force and effect of law as if it were contained within this Order.
- b. I hereby activate the State of Colorado Hazard and Incident Response and Recovery Plan, also known as the State Emergency Operations Plan. All State departments and agencies shall take all necessary actions as well as actions requested by the 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 necessary provision of appropriate staff and equipment.
- c. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-706(4), I hereby encumber \$15,000 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), I authorize and direct the Director of the Office of Emergency Management 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. I authorize the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management 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. This Executive Order memorializes my verbal order of May 18, 2017 activating the National Guard and authorizing use of National Guard assets for an evacuation mission, which shall have the full force and effect of law as if contained within this Order.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire 30 days from the date of this Executive Order, unless modified or replaced by future Executive Order. The funds described in paragraph II C above shall remain available for the described purposes for one hundred and twenty (120) days from the date of this Executive Order.



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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John W. Hickenlooper", written over the printed name and title.

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor