

STATE OF COLORADO

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John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

D 2017-016

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to the Peekaboo Fire in Moffat 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, Donna Lynne, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order declaring a state of disaster emergency due to the Peekaboo Fire in Moffat County, enabling state agencies to coordinate response efforts and making resources available for response activities.

Further, pursuant to the Colorado Constitution, Article IV, Section 5, and pursuant to C.R.S. § 28-3-104, I also hereby authorize employing the Colorado National Guard for the purpose of wildland fire suppression for the Peekaboo Fire in Moffat 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" C.R.S. § 24-33.5-703(3).

The Peekaboo Fire is believed to have been caused by a lightning strike on June 27, 2017. It is burning on federal land in pinyon-juniper, grass and sagebrush fuels. The fire threatened multiple ranches, Dinosaur National Monument, and Browns Park National Wildlife refuge. The area affected by the fire is also prime sage grouse habitat.

Due to persistent hot, dry conditions, the fire grew rapidly on July 6, more than doubling in size in one day. Federal land managers initially allowed the fire to burn for the environmental benefit of natural fire, but the rapid growth, properties at risk, and the need to protect habitat for the endangered sage grouse led federal land managers to pursue full suppression of the fire.

At approximately 3:00 pm on July 7, 2017, Governor John Hickenlooper verbally declared a disaster emergency for the Peekaboo Fire and activated the State of Colorado Hazard and Incident Response and Recovery Plan, also known as the State Emergency Operations Plan.

He further verbally authorized deployment and use of the Colorado National Guard for wildland fire suppression for the Peekaboo Fire.

II. Declarations and Directives

- A. The Peekaboo Fire and associated impacts constitute a disaster emergency under C.R.S § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.* Governor Hickenlooper's verbal order of July 7, 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. Since the Peekaboo Fire is confined solely to federal lands, financial responsibility for response and suppression efforts rests with the federal government. To assure timely reimbursement to the Colorado National Guard, I authorize payment from the Wildfire Cost Recovery Fund, managed by the Division of Fire Prevention and Control.
- C. I authorize and direct the Division of Fire Prevention and Control to coordinate application to the federal government for funds available for reimbursement, including funds expended as authorized in Paragraph IIB. The Division shall use funds from such federal reimbursements to reimburse the State for expending funds in the Wildfire Cost Recovery Fund to reimburse the Colorado National Guard.
- D. Governor Hickenlooper's verbal orders of July 7, 2017, activating the National Guard and authorizing the use of National Guard assets for wildland fire missions are hereby memorialized by this Executive Order and shall have the full force and effect of law as if they were contained within this order.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire thirty days from July 7, 2017, unless extended further by Executive Order, except that the funds described in paragraph IIB 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 19th day of
July, 2017.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Lynne".

Donna Lynne

Lieutenant Governor, acting on
behalf of the State while Governor
John W. Hickenlooper is absent
from the State.