

# STATE OF COLORADO

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

## D 2017-022

### EXECUTIVE ORDER

#### **Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to the Pine Tree Fire in Moffat County**

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 Pine Tree Fire and making resources available for response activities.

#### I. Background and Purpose

- A. 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).
- B. Late in the afternoon on September 9, 2017, the Craig Interagency Dispatch Center notified the Division of Fire Prevention and Control of a fire in Moffat County, named the Pine Tree Fire. The Pine Tree Fire is located 15 miles south of Maybell. The Incident Commander of the Pine Tree Fire believes that lightning caused the fire, though the cause has not been determined. As of September 11, 2017, the fire had grown to 4,400 acres. Oil and gas infrastructure is in the area, and the fire is impacting three privately-owned ranches as well as land under the control of the federal Bureau of Land Management.
- C. At approximately 1500 hours on September 10, 2017, I verbally declared a disaster emergency for the Pine Tree Fire.

II. Declarations and Directives

- A. The Pine Tree Fire and associated impacts constitute a disaster emergency under C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.* My verbal order of September 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. Due to the current insufficiency of funds necessary to pay for fire suppression efforts related to the Pine Tree Fire in the Disaster Emergency Fund and the Emergency Fire Fund, I order the transfer of \$1,000,000 from the Controlled Maintenance Trust Fund into the Disaster Emergency Fund pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-706(4)(b). I hereby encumber \$1,000,000 in the Disaster Emergency Fund to pay for the wildland fire suppression and response efforts related to the Pine Tree Fire since September 9, 2017.
- C. Further, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-705.4(5), the Acting 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.
- D. The Division of Fire Prevention and Control 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.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire thirty days from September 10, 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 fifteenth day  
of September, 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Hickenlooper", written over the text of the seal.

John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor