

# STATE OF COLORADO

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John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

## D 2018 017

### EXECUTIVE ORDER

#### **Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to the Lake Christine Fire in Eagle County**

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to Article IV, Section 2 of the Colorado Constitution and 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 Lake Christine Fire in Eagle County ("Lake Christine Fire"), enabling state agencies to coordinate response and recovery efforts, and making resources available to state agencies for response, recovery, and mitigation activities.

#### **I. Background and Purpose**

The Governor is responsible for meeting the dangers to the state and people presented by disasters. C.R.S. § 24-33.5-704(1). 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 Lake Christine Fire started on July 3, 2018, one mile northwest of Basalt, Colorado, in Eagle County. As of July 4, 2018 at 6:00 PM, the fire was estimated to be 2,373 acres, with zero percent containment. Approximately 500 houses were evacuated because of the fire. The fire had the potential to spread further and impact additional values including surrounding subdivisions, high voltage transmission lines, and communications infrastructure. The fire was primarily on state and private land.

On, July 4, 2018, at approximately 1:45 PM, the Division of Fire Prevention and Control determined that the Lake Christine Fire qualified for funds from the Emergency Fire Fund.

On July 4, 2018, at approximately 2:03 PM, I verbally declared a disaster emergency for the Lake Christine Fire and activated the State of Colorado Hazard and Incident Response and Recovery Plan ("State Emergency Operations Plan").

The Eagle County Board of County Commissioners declared local disaster emergencies due to the Lake Christine Fire on July 4, 2018.

Because of the severity of the fire and additional private and state properties at risk, the Division of Fire Prevention and Control requested a federal Fire Management Assistance Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency at approximately 6:00 PM, on July 4, 2018. The request for a Fire Management Assistance Grant was approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Regional Administrator at approximately 7:01 PM on July 4, 2018.

II. Declarations and Directives

- A. The Lake Christine Fire and associated impacts constitute a disaster emergency under C.R.S § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.* My verbal order of July 4, 2018, 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 Executive Order.
- B. 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 State Emergency Operations Plan, including provision of appropriate staff and equipment as necessary.
- C. Due to the insufficiency of funds in both the Emergency Fire Fund and the Disaster Emergency Fund established in C.R.S § 24-33.5-706(2)(a) to pay for the State's share of fire suppression and recovery efforts related to the Lake Christine Fire, I order the transfer of four million dollars (\$4,000,000) from the Controlled Maintenance Trust Fund into the Disaster Emergency Fund pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-706(4)(b). I further encumber four million dollars (\$4,000,000) from the Disaster Emergency Fund to pay for fire suppression, recovery, and mitigation efforts related to the Lake Christine Fire since July 4, 2018.
- D. Further, 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 Executive Order, and any unexpended funds shall be reimbursed to accounts from which they were originally transferred.

- E. The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is authorized and directed to coordinate application, via fire billing practices within the Division of Fire Prevention and Control, to the federal government for funds available for reimbursement and to coordinate application for any other funds available related to this disaster emergency. Specifically, the Division of Fire Prevention and Control is directed to seek reimbursement and make payments as needed to agencies providing assistance for this incident.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire thirty (30) days from July 4, 2018, unless extended further by Executive Order, except that the funds described in Section 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 the  
Executive Seal of the State of  
Colorado, this third day of  
August, 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Hickenlooper".

John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor