



COLORADO

Governor Jared Polis

D 2019 004

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to Severe Spring Weather and Blizzard Conditions in Eastern Colorado 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 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, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order declaring a state of disaster emergency due to the severe winter weather and blizzard conditions in Logan, Douglas, Arapahoe, Adams, Jefferson, Elbert, Phillips, Sedgwick, Morgan, Larimer, and El Paso counties (“Eastern Colorado Counties Severe Spring Weather and Blizzard Conditions”), enabling State agencies to coordinate response, recovery, and mitigation efforts, and making resources available to State agencies for response, recovery, and mitigation activities.

Further, pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 of the Colorado Constitution and pursuant to C.R.S. § 28-3-104, I hereby authorize deploying the Colorado National Guard for the purpose of responding to the Eastern Colorado Counties Severe Spring Weather and Blizzard Conditions.

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” C.R.S. § 24-33.5-703(3).

On April 10, 2019, meteorologists predicted that an extremely powerful spring storm would impact Colorado, with counties north of Interstate 70 and east of Interstate 25 experiencing the greatest impact. Snow accumulation of 12 inches was expected, with wind gusts up to 60 miles per hour that could create blowing and drifting snow, forcing closures of major highways and cancellation of passenger flights. The National Weather Service issued a blizzard warning for the most highly-impacted areas. Based on experience with a similar storm in March 2019, the State expected that travelers would become stranded on roadways and require sheltering. The Colorado National Guard is the most effective available resource to support search and rescue operations in those types of conditions.

The Director of the Office of Emergency Management activated the State Emergency Operations Center to support and coordinate search and rescue activities and other requests from



impacted jurisdictions. The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Regional Field Managers supported local response efforts.

At 9:30 AM on April 10, 2019, I verbally declared a disaster emergency for the Eastern Colorado Counties Severe Spring Weather and Blizzard Conditions and activated the State of Colorado Hazard and Incident Response and Recovery Plan (“State Emergency Operations Plan”). At the same time, I verbally authorized deployment and use of the Colorado National Guard for the purpose of search and rescue operations resulting from the Eastern Colorado Counties Severe Spring Weather and Blizzard Conditions.

II. Declarations and Directives

- A. The Eastern Colorado Counties Severe Spring Weather and Blizzard Conditions and associated impacts constitute a disaster emergency under C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.* My verbal order of April 10, 2019, 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. Further, pursuant to C.R.S. § 28-3-104, my verbal orders of April 10, 2019, authorizing deployment and use of the National Guard for search and rescue operations associated with the Eastern Colorado Counties Severe Spring Weather and Blizzard Conditions are hereby memorialized by this Executive Order and shall have the full force and effect of law as if they were contained within this Executive Order.
- C. 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 5 Annex of the State Emergency Operations Plan, including provision of appropriate staff and equipment as necessary.
- D. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-706(4), I find that the funds regularly appropriated to State and local agencies are insufficient to address this disaster emergency. Therefore, I order that one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from the Disaster Emergency Fund is encumbered to pay for the response, recovery, and mitigation efforts related to this disaster emergency. This amount is currently available in the Disaster Emergency Fund.
- E. 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 six (6) months from the

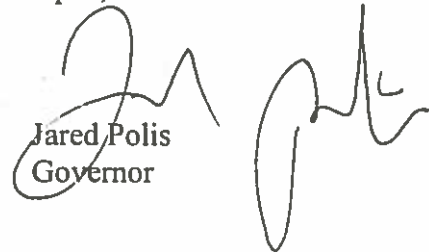
date of this Executive Order, and any unexpended funds shall remain in the Disaster Emergency Fund.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire thirty (30) days from April 10, 2019, unless extended further by Executive Order, except that the funds described in Section II(D) above shall remain available for the described purposes for six (6) months from the date of this Executive Order.



GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this thirtieth day of April, 2019.


Jared Polis
Governor