



D 2020 222

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Extending Executive Orders D 2020 193 and D 2020 194 Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to Multiple Fires Statewide, Authorizing Employment of the Colorado National Guard, and Authorizing the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to Suspend Certain Regulations and Licensing Requirements

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 extending Executive Orders D 2020 193 and D 2020 194 declaring a state of disaster emergency due to multiple fires statewide in Colorado, and authorizing the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to suspend certain regulations, certifications, and licensing requirements for providers of emergency medical services and physician medical directors from outside of Colorado formally ordered by on-scene incident management organizations to respond to fires for the duration of this Executive Order.

Further, pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 of the Colorado Constitution and pursuant to C.R.S. § 28-3-104, I hereby extend Executive Orders D 2020 193 and D 2020 194 employing the Colorado National Guard for the purpose of responding to multiple fires statewide by providing standby aircraft to support emergency search and rescue; providing aircraft, equipment, and personnel to support fire suppression efforts; and assisting law enforcement agencies with traffic control, security needs, and supporting evacuations.

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).

High temperatures and dry conditions have resulted in high fire danger and extreme fire behavior throughout much of Colorado. The entire State continues to experience abnormally dry or drought conditions, and as of October 8, 2020, approximately 90 percent of the State is in severe, extreme, or exceptional drought conditions as classified by the United State Drought Monitor. On June 22, 2020, I activated the State’s Drought Mitigation and Response Plan, which formalized a cabinet-level Drought Task Force as well as an Agricultural Impact Task Force to

assess and track impacts of the drought and increase coordination across our local, State, and federal partners. Already this year, 995 wildfires have burned over 371,101 acres across the State. These conditions attest to the continuing threat to life, health, and property posed by wildfires on Colorado's public and private lands. On August 19, 2020, I issued Executive Order D 2020 168, declaring that conditions of extreme fire hazard exist and ordering temporary fire restrictions across the State of Colorado to reduce the risk of new fires. I extended Executive Order D 2020 168 until September 30, 2020, in Executive Order D 2020 196.

Throughout the 2020 fire season, dry and hot conditions increased the wildland fire risk across Colorado and western states. In late July and continuing through October, numerous wildland fires broke out throughout western and northern Colorado. Federal, State, and local communities mobilized all available equipment and personnel to conduct fire suppression and support activities, but the need is so great that current resources are at or beyond capacity. The Colorado National Guard can provide aircraft, equipment, and personnel ("National Guard Assets") to support firefighting operations.

Firefighters required significant air search and rescue support because of the wide range of the fires throughout the State and the nature of the terrain where the fires are burning. The Incident Management Teams on fires in Colorado requested assistance by the Colorado National Guard to provide air search and rescue capabilities.

At approximately 1:32 PM on August 18, 2020, I verbally declared a disaster emergency for multiple fires statewide, authorized the use of Colorado National Guard Assets, and activated the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Plan. I also authorized CDPHE to suspend certain regulations, certifications, and licensing requirements for thirty (30) days for out-of-state providers of emergency medical services and physician medical directors to provide support for fire response in Colorado. As fires continued into September and October, the reduced availability of providers of emergency medical services and physician medical directors has continued, and it is necessary to continue suspension of certain regulations, certifications, and licensing requirements for the safety and health of personnel responding to fires in Colorado.

On September 16, 2020, I signed Executive Order D 2020 193, memorializing my verbal orders of August 18, 2020. I extended this for thirty (30) days in Executive Order D 2020 194. Due to ongoing fire activity and response, this Executive Order extends Executive Orders D 2020 193 and D 2020 194 for an additional thirty (30) days.

II. Duration

Executive Order D 2020 193, as extended by Executive Order D 2020 194 and this Executive Order, shall expire thirty (30) days from October 15, 2020, unless extended further by Executive Order. In all other respects, Executive Orders D 2020 193 and D 2020 194 shall remain in full force and effect as originally promulgated.



GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this fifteenth day of September, 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis
Governor