



## D 2024 010

### EXECUTIVE ORDER

#### **Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to the Currant Creek Fire in Delta County and Authorizing Employment 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, issue this Executive Order declaring a state of disaster emergency due to the Currant Creek Fire in Delta County, enabling State and Federal agencies to coordinate fire suppression, response, consequence management, mitigation, and recovery efforts.

Further, pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 of the Colorado Constitution and C.R.S. § 28-3-104, I authorize employing unarmed members of the Colorado National Guard for the purpose of responding to the Currant Creek Fire by supporting fire suppression efforts, including with the use of aviation assets if needed, and assisting law enforcement agencies with traffic control, security needs, and supporting incident management.

#### **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).

On July 27, 2024, the Currant Creek Fire started near Cedaredge, Colorado, in Delta County. The Currant Creek Fire burned 188 acres on Bureau of Land Management and private land in rough and challenging terrain in high temperatures resulting in heat advisories. Within a five mile radius, the fire threatened 518 homes, a watershed for the town of Hotchkiss, and one communication tower, exceeding local capacity to manage the fire. Three houses were placed on evacuation order and 200 houses were put on pre-evacuation status.

On July 30, 2024, at approximately 3:15pm, I verbally declared a disaster emergency due to the Currant Creek Fire in Delta County and activated the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Plan. On July 31, 2024, I verbally authorized employing unarmed members of the Colorado National Guard for the purpose of responding to the Currant Creek Fire by supporting

fire suppression efforts, including with the use of aviation assets if needed, and assisting law enforcement agencies with traffic control, security needs, and supporting incident management. On August 2, 2024, the fire was 56% contained. As of August 5, 2024, the fire was 100% contained.

## **II. Declarations and Directives**

- A. The Currant Creek Fire and associated impacts constitute a disaster emergency under C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.* My verbal order of July 30, 2024, 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 order of July 31, 2024, authorizing employing unarmed members of the Colorado National Guard for the purpose of responding to the Currant Creek Fire, is hereby memorialized by this Executive Order and shall have the full force and effect of law as if it were contained in this Executive Order.
- C. My verbal order of July 30, 2024, activated the State Emergency Operations Plan. All State departments and agencies are authorized to 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.
- D. I direct State agencies to pursue all available federal funding for response and recovery operations, including but not limited to the Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- E. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-706(4)(b), funds in the Disaster Emergency Fund (DEF) are insufficient to pay for fire suppression, response, consequence management, mitigation, and recovery efforts. Therefore, I order that one hundred fifty seven thousand dollars (\$157,000) be transferred from the State Emergency Reserve Cash Fund (SERCF) to the DEF. I encumber one hundred fifty seven thousand dollars (\$157,000) in the DEF to pay for fire suppression, response, consequence management, mitigation, and recovery efforts related to the Currant Creek Fire in Delta County.
- F. 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 nonprofit organizations and execute awards,

purchase orders or other mechanisms to effect the allocation of funds. The funds described in Section II(E) above shall remain available for this purpose until seventy-two (72) months from the date of this Executive Order, and any unexpended funds shall remain in the DEF.

**III. Duration**

This Executive Order shall expire thirty (30) days from July 30, 2024, unless extended further by Executive Order, except that the funds described in Section II(E) above shall remain available for the described purposes for seventy-two (72) months from the date of this Executive Order.



GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado this twenty-eighth day of August, 2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jared Polis  
Governor