



## D 2024 011

### EXECUTIVE ORDER

#### **Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to the Alexander Mountain Fire in Larimer 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 Alexander Mountain Fire in Larimer 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 pursuant to C.R.S. § 28-3-104, I authorize employing unarmed members of the Colorado National Guard for the purpose of responding to the Alexander Mountain 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 29, 2024, the Alexander Mountain Fire started in Larimer County, seven miles west of Loveland, Colorado. The Alexander Mountain Fire burned 950 acres on July 29, 2024, and by July 30, 2024, had increased to 5,100 acres, burning on Federal and private land. Within a three mile radius of the center of the fire, 318 homes were threatened with approximately 814 people residing in the area. The communities of Drake and Masonville were placed on evacuation order. Multiple radio and cell towers were threatened and the local capacity was exceeded.

On July 30, 2024, at approximately 3:15pm, I verbally declared a disaster emergency due to the Alexander Mountain Fire in Larimer 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 Alexander Mountain 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.

The availability of wildland fire resources was extremely limited due to the occurrence of wildfires across the western United States resulting in a heightened level of national preparedness. On July 31, 2024, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) declared the fire eligible for a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG). On August 2, 2024, the fire had burned 9,053 acres and was 5% contained. By August 7, 2024 the fire had burned 9,668 acres and was 83% contained. As of August 17, 2024, the Alexander Mountain Fire was 100% contained.

## **II. Declarations and Directives**

- A. The Alexander Mountain 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 Alexander Mountain Fire, 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.
- C. My verbal order on July 30, 2024 activated the State Emergency Operations Plan. All State departments and agencies shall take whatever actions 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 five million four hundred forty five thousand dollars (\$5,445,000) be transferred from the

State Emergency Reserve Cash Fund (SERCF) to the DEF. I encumber five million four hundred forty five thousand dollars (\$5,445,000) in the DEF to pay for fire suppression, response, consequence management, mitigation, and recovery efforts related to the Alexander Mountain Fire in Larimer 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".

Jared Polis  
Governor