



**D 2024 013**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER**

**Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to the Quarry Fire in Jefferson 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 Quarry Fire in Jefferson 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 Quarry 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 30, 2024, the Quarry Fire started in Jefferson County, six miles west of Littleton, Colorado. Within a two mile radius of the fire center, there were 771 buildings, 15 communication towers, 2 fire stations and 1 airport, with a population impact of approximately 243 persons, exceeding local capacity to manage the fire. The topography entailed steep drainage and complex terrain on the front range foothills with hot and dry weather. There were 575 homes in three subdivisions that were evacuated in response to the fire.

On July 31, 2024, at approximately 9:45am, I verbally declared a disaster emergency due to the Quarry Fire in Jefferson County and activated the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Plan. Also on July 31, 2024, I verbally authorized employing unarmed members of the Colorado National Guard for the purpose of responding to the Quarry 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.

Between July 30 and August 1, 2024, the Quarry Fire burned 341 acres on private land. On August 1, 2024, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) declared the Quarry Fire eligible for a Fire Management Assistant Grant (FMAG). On August 4, 2024, there were 241 homes still without power. As of August 4, 2024, the fire had burned 578 acres and was 100% contained.

## **II. Declarations and Directives**

- A. The Quarry Fire and associated impacts constitute a disaster emergency under C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.* My verbal order of July 31, 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 Quarry 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 of July 31, 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 four million eight hundred thirty nine thousand dollars (\$4,839,000) be transferred from the State Emergency Reserve Cash Fund (SERCF) to the DEF. I encumber four million eight hundred thirty nine thousand dollars (\$4,839,000) in the DEF to pay for fire suppression, response, consequence management, mitigation, and recovery efforts related to the Quarry Fire in Jefferson 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 31, 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