



D 2025 016

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to the Leroux Fire in Delta County

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 Leroux Fire in Delta County, enabling State and federal agencies to coordinate fire suppression, response, consequence management, mitigation, and recovery efforts.

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 August 3, 2025, the Leroux Fire began five miles northwest of the town of Hotchkiss in Delta County. The Leroux Fire was caused by prolonged high temperatures, high winds, severe to extreme drought conditions, and near record fire-level indices. It burned on federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and private land.

As referenced in Executive Order D 2025 012, on August 4, 2025, at approximately 8:52 PM, I verbally declared a disaster emergency due to the Leroux Fire in Delta County and activated the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Plan and directed the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to take all necessary and appropriate State actions to assist the affected jurisdictions with their fire suppression, response, consequence management, mitigation, and recovery efforts.

As of August 5, the fire models projected a high probability that the fire would travel through heavy fuels and had potential for aggressive and expansive growth. The Leroux Fire necessitated evacuations of primary residences, placed 152 homes on pre-evacuation status, and threatened an additional 60 other structures.

As of August 18, the Leroux Fire burned 195 acres and was 100% contained.

II. Declarations and Directives

- A. The Leroux Fire and associated impacts constitute a disaster emergency under C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.* My verbal order of August 4, 2025, 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. My verbal order of August 4, 2025, 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 their delegate of the OEM pursuant to the State Emergency Operations Plan, including provision of appropriate staff and equipment, as necessary.
- C. I direct State agencies to pursue all available federal funding for response and recovery operations.
- D. 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 related to the Leroux Fire. Therefore, I order that forty one thousand dollars (\$41,000) be transferred from the State Emergency Reserve Cash Fund (SERCF) to the DEF. I encumber forty one thousand dollars (\$41,000) in the DEF to pay for fire suppression, response, consequence management, mitigation, and recovery efforts related to the Leroux Fire in Delta County.
- E. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-705.4(5), the Director of the OEM is authorized and directed to allocate the funding described in Section II(D) 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(D) 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 August 4, 2025, unless extended further by Executive Order, except that the funds described in Section II(D) 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, 2025.

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

Jared Polis
Governor