



D 2020 253

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to the Calwood Fire in Boulder 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 the Calwood Fire in Boulder County, enabling State agencies to coordinate, and making resources available for fire suppression, response, consequence management, 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).

The Calwood Fire started on October 17, 2020, in Boulder County on State and private land three miles north of Jamestown, Colorado. The fire grew to over 8700 acres and was threatening over 10,000 single residences. On October 18, 2020, the Lefthand Fire started on private land in Boulder County, and the combination of these two fires greatly reduced local response capacity. As of October 21, 2020, the Calwood Fire had burned 9,978 acres and caused over 1,300 homes to be evacuated. At approximately 2:30 PM on October 17, 2020, the Division of Fire Prevention and Control determined that the Calwood Fire had exceeded county capacity and was eligible for state responsibility per the Emergency Fire Fund criteria.

At approximately 3:00 PM on October 17, 2020, I verbally declared a disaster emergency for the Calwood Fire in Boulder County and activated the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Plan.

Because of the severity of the fire and additional private and State properties at risk, on October 17, 2020, at approximately 4:00 PM the Division of Fire Prevention and Control requested a federal Fire Management Assistance Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the Calwood Fire. On October 17, 2020, at approximately 4:28 PM, the request for a Fire Management Assistance Grant was approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Regional Administrator.

As of October 28, 2020, the Calwood Fire burned 10,105 acres and was seventy-six percent contained and over 1,805 homes had been evacuated.

II. Declarations and Directives

- A. The Calwood Fire and associated impacts constitute a disaster emergency under C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.* My verbal order of October 17, 2020, 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. The State Emergency Operations Plan is hereby activated. All State departments and agencies shall take whatever actions may be required and requested by the Director or Acting Director of the Office of Emergency Management pursuant to the Emergency Support Function 5 Annex of the State Emergency Operations Plan, including provision of appropriate staff and equipment as necessary.
- C. Funds in the Emergency Fire Fund are hereby found to be insufficient to pay for the State fire suppression, response, consequence management, and recovery efforts related to the Calwood Fire. Further, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-706(4)(b), funds in the Disaster Emergency Fund are hereby found insufficient to pay for the State's fire suppression, response, consequence management, and recovery efforts related to the East Troublesome Fire. I therefore transfer three million, six-hundred and forty eight thousand dollars (\$3,648,000) into the Disaster Emergency Fund from the Controlled Maintenance Trust Fund. I therefore encumber three million, six-hundred and forty eight thousand dollars (\$3,648,000) from the Disaster Emergency Fund, established in C.R.S. § 24-33.5-706(2)(a), for costs associated with suppression resources related to the Calwood Fire since October 17, 2020 and the State's fire suppression, response, consequence management, and recovery efforts related to the Calwood Fire since October 17, 2020.
- D. 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 non-profit organizations and execute awards, purchase orders, or other mechanisms to effect the allocation of the funds. The funds described in section II(C) above shall remain available for this purpose until thirty-six (36) months from the date of this Executive Order, and any unexpended funds shall remain in the Disaster Emergency Fund.
- E. The Division of Fire Prevention and Control, via its fire billing practices, is authorized to coordinate applications for any funds available related to this disaster emergency. Specifically, the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control is directed to seek reimbursement and make payments as needed to agencies providing assistance related to the Calwood Fire.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire thirty (30) days from October 17, 2020, unless extended further by Executive Order, except that the funds described in Section II.C above shall remain available for the described purposes for thirty-six (36) months from the date of this Executive Order.



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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jared Polis'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jared Polis
Governor