



## D 2020 254

### EXECUTIVE ORDER

#### Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to the Lefthand 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 Lefthand 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 Lefthand Fire started on October 18, 2020, in Boulder County, on United States Forest Service Land, one mile east of Ward, and immediately threatened 200 single residences. On October 18, 2020, the fire grew to 320 acres and was 4% contained. The Calwood Fire started on October 17, 2020, in Boulder County and the combination of these two incidents greatly reduced local response capacity. At approximately 3:40 PM on October 18, 2020, the Division of Fire Prevention and Control determined that the Lefthand Fire had exceeded county capacity and was eligible for state responsibility per the Emergency Fire Fund criteria.

On October 18, 2020, at approximately 5:04 PM, I verbally declared a disaster emergency for the Lefthand Fire in Boulder County and activated the State of Colorado Emergency Operations Plan.

As of October 25, 2020, the Lefthand Fire burned 460 acres and was one hundred percent contained and over 1,141 residents had been evacuated.

#### **II. Declarations and Directives**

- A. The Lefthand Fire and associated impacts constitute a disaster emergency under C.R.S § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.* My verbal order of October 18, 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 Lefthand Fire. In addition, 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 Lefthand Fire. I therefore transfer one hundred forty seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$147,500) into the Disaster Emergency Fund from the Controlled Maintenance Trust Fund. I encumber one hundred forty seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$147,500) 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 Lefthand Fire since October 18, 2020, and the State's fire suppression, response, consequence management, and recovery efforts related to the Lefthand Fire since October 18, 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 Lefthand Fire.

**III. Duration**

This Executive Order shall expire thirty (30) days from October 18, 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".

Jared Polis  
Governor