

STATE OF COLORADO

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John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

D 2013-011

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to the Klickus Fire in Huerfano County

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant relevant portions of C.R.S. § 28-3-104 and relevant portions of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.*, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order declaring a state of disaster emergency due to the Klickus Fire in Huerfano County, Colorado and making resources available to fight the fire and address the disaster emergency.

I. Background and Purpose

The Governor is responsible for meeting the dangers to the state and people presented by disasters. The Colorado Disaster Emergency Act defines a disaster as “the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damages, 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 June 11, 2013, at about 1530 hours, the Klickus Fire was reported by the Huerfano County Sheriff to the Division of Fire Prevention and Control approximately 5 miles west of La Veta. This wind-driven fire was quickly growing in size and intensity, prompting the mandatory evacuation of 3 homes. All available firefighting resources were committed to firefighting and structural protection.

The Huerfano County Sheriff determined that the fire exceeded the ability of the county and other local resources to contain and extinguish it and requested the transfer of the fire to the State of Colorado under the Emergency Fire Fund (EFF) provisions.

At 1854 hours the Division of Fire Prevention and Control completed its assessment and determined that the Klickus Fire met the criteria for EFF designation. The EFF request was approved by the Governor at 1900 hours on June 11, 2013.

II. Declaration and Directives

- A. The Klickus Fire constitutes a disaster emergency under C.R.S. § 24-33.5-704. My order of June 11, 2013 at 1900 hours, 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 of the Office of Emergency Management, including provision of appropriate staff and equipment as necessary.
- C. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-706(4), it is ordered that \$150,000 from the Disaster Emergency Fund is encumbered to pay for the fire suppression, response, and recovery effort related to the Klickus Fire since its inception. The Director of the Office of Emergency Management is hereby authorized and directed to allocate the funding to the appropriate government agencies and execute awards, purchase orders or other mechanisms to effect the allocation of the funds. These funds shall remain available for this purpose for eighteen months from the date of this Executive Order, and any unexpended funds shall remain in the Disaster Emergency Fund.
- D. My verbal orders activating the National Guard and authorizing the utilization of National Guard assets to fight the Klickus Fire and enforce the laws of the State of Colorado as provided in C.R.S. § 28-3-104 are hereby memorialized by this Executive Order and shall have the full force and effect of law as if they were contained within this Executive Order.
- E. The Colorado Department of Public Safety is authorized and directed to coordinate application to the federal government for funds available for reimbursement and to coordinate application for any other funds available related to this disaster emergency.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire thirty days from June 11, 2013, unless extended further by Executive Order, except that the funds described in paragraph II(C) above shall remain available for the described purposes for eighteen months from the date of this Executive Order.



GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado this twelfth day of
June, 2013.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John W. Hickenlooper".

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor