STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

136 State Capitol Building
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone (303) 866 - 2471
Fax (303) 866 - 2003

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

D 2013-012

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to the Big Meadows Fire in Grand County and Authorizing use of the National Guard

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to 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 disaster emergency due to the Big Meadows Fire in Rocky Mountain National Park in Grand County and authorizing the National Guard to assist 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 10, 2013, lightning started the Big Meadows Fire in Rocky Mountain National Park. On June 11 and 12, 2013, extreme fire weather conditions caused the fire to grow in size from less than 10 acres to over 400 acres. Due to the fire growth, firefighters are now deployed in steep, rugged terrain with limited vehicle access. On the evening of June 12, 2013, the Type II Incident Management Team assuming management of this fire requested a Colorado National Guard helicopter for rescue and/or medivac, if necessary, during this incident, starting on June 13, 2013. I verbally approved this request with a limit of three days.

II. Declaration and Directives

A. The Big Meadows Fire constitutes a disaster emergency under C.R.S. § 24-33.5-704. My verbal order of June 12, 2013, declaring a disaster emergency and authorizing three days use of the National Guard 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 $15,000 from the Disaster Emergency Fund is encumbered to pay for the use of the National Guard helicopter. The actual cost of the National Guard helicopter and personnel will be reimbursed to the Disaster Emergency Fund by the Federal Government. 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.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire thirty days from June 12, 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 thirteenth day of of June, 2013.

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor