

# STATE OF COLORADO

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## EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

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Bill Owens  
Governor

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## **E X E C U T I V E   O R D E R**

### **Declaring a Disaster Emergency Due to a Wildfire in Garfield County**

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado, and pursuant to the relevant portions of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, §24-32-2100 *et seq.*, C.R.S., I, Bill Owens, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order declaring a state of disaster emergency.

1.     Background and Need.

On Thursday, August 31, 2006, a fire ignited in Garfield County, five miles southwest of Rifle. The “Red Apple Fire” quickly escalated with high rates of speed threatening approximately 160 homes within several local subdivisions. One residence was confirmed destroyed along with the destruction of four buildings and damage to two gas wells. As of this time, the Red Apple Fire has burned approximately 850 acres.

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. § 24-32-2103(1.5). On September 1, 2006, I issued a verbal order declaring that the Red Apple Fire constituted a disaster for the purposes of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act.

In response, I have encumbered state funds and directed the use of state resources to contain and extinguish this wildfire in the shortest possible timeframe. I have directed the Colorado State Forest Service and its wildfire experts to provide assistance in combating this fire. In addition, the state has made single engine air tankers, National Guard helicopters, ground vehicles, and fire crews available to assist in this effort. The State of Colorado will use every resource at its disposal when the life or property of its citizens is at risk.

2. Mission and Scope.

- A. I hereby declare that the Red Apple Fire constitutes a disaster for purposes of C.R.S. §24-32-2103.
- B. Pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-32-2106, I order the encumbrance of \$500,000 from the State Disaster Emergency Fund to finance fire suppression activities. These funds shall remain available for this purpose for nine months from the date of this Executive Order.
- C. The Director of the Colorado Office of Emergency Management and the Colorado State Forest Service is hereby authorized and directed to coordinate application to the federal government for funds available to individuals affected by this disaster, federal funds available for reimbursement, and for any other funds available related to this disaster emergency.
- D. All verbal orders I issued in regard to this disaster emergency, including my disaster emergency declaration on September 1, 2006, 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.

3. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire thirty (30) days from its date of signature unless extended by Executive Order.



GIVEN under my hand and the  
Executive Seal of the State of Colorado  
this 13<sup>th</sup> day of September 2006.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Owens." The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Bill Owens  
Governor