

STATE OF MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 25

EXECUTIVE ORDER AUTHORIZING INCIDENT RESPONSE
AUTHORITY IN THE STATE OF MONTANA

WHEREAS, on November 11 and 12, 2007 a weather system moved across the State of Montana producing extremely high winds that have caused damage to public and private property in addition to fanning large wildfires in several locations across the state; and

WHEREAS, a wildfire of unknown origin started in the south Moccasin Mountains northwest of Lewistown, Montana and burned over 15,000 acres destroying timber and rangeland and threatening ranch homes and outbuildings; and

WHEREAS, Fergus County has requested and received assistance from all rural fire departments within the county in addition to the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and Bureau of Land Management in fighting this wildfire; and

WHEREAS, the Fergus County Commissioners declared a state of emergency on November 13, 2007 to activate their county emergency operations plan and requested agency representative assistance from the State Disaster & Emergency Services Division; and

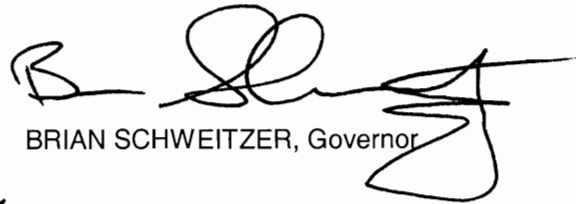
WHEREAS, the availability and utilization of necessary state government services, equipment and supplies will further efforts to protect health and safety and preserve the lives, property and resources of the people of the State of Montana; and

WHEREAS, an executive order issued under section 10-3-310, MCA, declaring an incident activates the state disaster and emergency plan pertaining to incident response, which in turn authorizes action by disaster and emergency services personnel, and allows the Governor to expend funds from the general fund to pay for incident response costs of the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRIAN SCHWEITZER, Governor of the State of Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor under the Constitution of the State of Montana, Title 10, Chapter 3, MCA, and under other applicable statutes, do hereby activate that part of the State Emergency Coordination Plan pertaining to incident response and authorize the expenditure of funds for incident response costs of the state, in accordance with section 10-3-310, MCA, effective November 14th, 2007.

This Order is effective November 14th, 2007.

GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana, this 16th day of November, 2007.



BRIAN SCHWEITZER, Governor

ATTEST:

Brad Johnson by Susan Ames,
BRAD JOHNSON, Secretary of State *deputy*