

State of Montana Office of the Governor

Executive Order 36 - 06

EXECUTIVE ORDER PROCLAIMING AN EMERGENCY TO EXIST IN THE STATE OF MONTANA

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BRAD JOHNSON
SECRETARY OF STATE

WHEREAS, extremely hazardous wildland fire conditions continue to exist throughout the State of Montana; and

WHEREAS, the hot and dry conditions are predicted to continue through the months of August and September with little or no relief; and

WHEREAS, numerous large wildland fires have already occurred across the State of Montana; and

WHEREAS, the conditions existing in Montana are mirrored in many areas across the nation; and

WHEREAS, on July 28, 2006, the National Incident Information Center for the United States Department of Agriculture upgraded the National Preparedness Level to Level 5, the highest level, because several geographic areas of the country were known to be experiencing major incidents, with the consequent potential to exhaust all interagency suppression resources; and

WHEREAS, because of these conditions in other areas of the country, national resources are stretched among many jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, in Montana, we have reached across our northern international border for firefighting assistance from Canada; and

WHEREAS, since July 11, 2006, six Montana counties have declared states of emergency (Rosebud, Granite, Madison, Ravalli, Missoula and Powder River) and seven have declared states of disaster (Stillwater, Yellowstone, Custer, Big Horn, Garfield, Treasure, and Musselshell); and

WHEREAS, the fire danger in Montana has expanded to more areas of urban interface, and a number of structures including residences have already been destroyed by these fires; and

WHEREAS, the aggressive initial attack provided by firefighting forces in Montana has successfully contained and put out a number of fires (including forty fires within the last week across the State); and

WHEREAS, new fires continue to erupt, requiring the continuation of aggressive initial attacks; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that firefighting forces provide not only initial attack capabilities, but extended attack capabilities as well; and

WHEREAS, additional state resources are needed to reinforce Montana's initial attack capabilities and sustain extended attack capabilities; and

WHEREAS, the wildland fires that have been and are currently burning have created an imminent threat of a disaster causing immediate peril to life or property that timely actions can avert or minimize; and

WHEREAS, under these conditions, pursuant to 10-3-302, 10-3-311, and 10-3-312, MCA, the Governor may mobilize state resources and the Montana National Guard to protect life, health, and property and may expend funds to meet contingencies and needs that may arise from the emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRIAN SCHWEITZER, Governor of the State of Montana, by virtue of the authority vested in me pursuant to the Montana Constitution, Title 10, Chapter 3, MCA, and other applicable laws of the State of Montana, do hereby declare under § 10-3-302, MCA, that an emergency exists in the State of Montana, as defined in § 10-3-103, MCA.

This order is effective August 1, 2006.

Given under my hand and the
GREAT SEAL of the State of
Montana, this 1st day
of August, 2006.


BRIAN SCHWEITZER, Governor

ATTEST:



BRAD JOHNSON, Secretary of State.