

**State of Montana
Office of the Governor
Executive Order 5-2012**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER PROCLAIMING AN EMERGENCY TO EXIST IN LEWIS & CLARK,
BROADWATER, JEFFERSON AND MADISON COUNTIES IN THE STATE OF MONTANA**

WHEREAS, extremely hazardous wild land fire conditions currently exist throughout west central, south central and southwest portions of Montana; and

WHEREAS, the Antelope Fire (Jefferson County) was discovered on June 23, 2012, the Pony Fire (Madison County) on June 24, 2012, the Bear Trap Fire (Madison County) on June 25, 2012, the Corral Fire (Lewis and Clark County) erupted on June 25, 2012 and an un-named fire near Toston (Broadwater County) ignited on June 26, 2012, all of which experienced extremely high temperatures, low relative humidity, wind and extremely dry fuel; and

WHEREAS, near record temperatures and low relative humidity in these geographic areas have increased the wildfire starts as well as potential starts; and

WHEREAS, in the past, an aggressive initial attack on all wild land fire starts has been the top priority of Montana's fire fighting forces; and

WHEREAS, an aggressive initial attack considerably reduces the number of large wild land fires, which in turn significantly reduces the damage to both public and private property; and

WHEREAS, continued aggressive initial attacks on all future wild land fire starts are needed to protect lives and property in the state; and

WHEREAS, additional state resources are needed to reinforce Montana's initial attack capabilities and support reduction of large wild land fires should they occur; and

WHEREAS, wild land fires have been and are currently burning and have created an imminent threat of a disaster, which timely actions can avert or minimize; and

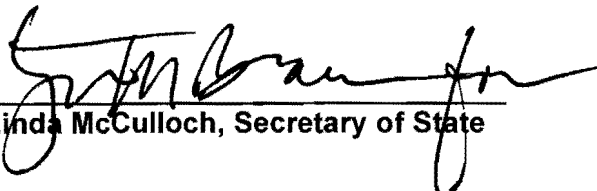
WHEREAS, under these conditions, pursuant to § 10-3-302, MCA, the Governor may mobilize state resources and the Montana National Guard to protect life, health, and property by declaring a state of emergency.

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 counties of Lewis and Clark, Broadwater, Jefferson, and Madison), State of Montana.

This order is effective June 26, 2012.

Given under my hand and the
GREAT SEAL of the State of
Montana, this 26th day
of June, 2012.

Attest:


Linda McCulloch, Secretary of State


Brian Schweitzer, Governor