

**State of Montana  
Office of the Governor  
Executive Order 09-2009**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER PROCLAIMING AN EMERGENCY TO EXIST IN LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY, JEFFERSON COUNTY AND THE CITY OF HELENA, MONTANA**

WHEREAS, a wildfire ignited west of the City of Helena in Lewis & Clark County on September 25, 2009 near McDonald Pass near the county line between Jefferson County and Lewis & Clark County, and immediately spread into timber, including dead standing trees affected by the pine bark beetle; and

WHEREAS, hazardous wildland fire conditions currently exist throughout Montana; and

WHEREAS, the area of the fire has experienced record hot and dry conditions recently and is currently under a Red Flag Warning due to the extreme fire conditions; and

WHEREAS, there are several subdivisions, unincorporated communities, and residences within the immediate threat of this growing wildfire including the community of Rimini, Colorado Gulch, and Grizzly Gulch; and

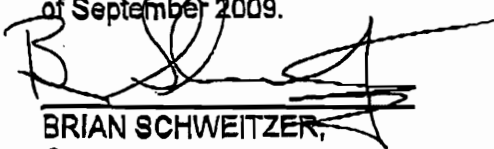
WHEREAS, fire management officials predict the fire to spread to the east, driven by high winds associated with a weather system moving through the area creating an imminent threat of a disaster, which timely actions can avert or minimize; and

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 necessary 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 that an emergency exists in the State of Montana, as defined in §§ 10-3-103 and 10-3-302, MCA.

This order is effective September 26, 2009.

Given under my hand and the  
GREAT SEAL of the State of  
Montana, this 26<sup>th</sup> day  
of September 2009.

  
BRIAN SCHWEITZER,  
Governor

Attest:

  
Linda McCulloch, Secretary of State