

**STATE OF MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7-2017**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO EXIST STATEWIDE
IN THE STATE OF MONTANA**

WHEREAS, extremely hazardous wild land fire conditions currently exist throughout the entire State of Montana, including near-record temperatures, continual wind and low relative humidity;

WHEREAS, extreme and exceptional drought conditions exist throughout eastern and central Montana;

WHEREAS, numerous wildland fires have occurred and continue to ignite in the State of Montana, specifically in eastern and central Montana;

WHEREAS, fire complexes are established in numerous eastern and central Montana counties to include the Lodgepole Complex consisting of 4 fires over 200,000 acres;

WHEREAS, many of these fires are threatening numerous residences, outbuildings and have required numerous evacuations of residents and subsequent sheltering of the evacuees;

WHEREAS, firefighting and aviation fuel resources are expected to be at critical shortage levels;

WHEREAS, continued deployment of firefighting resources is needed to considerably reduce the number of large wildland fires, which in turn significantly reduces the damage to both public and private property;

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

WHEREAS, wildland 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, Steve Bullock, 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.

This order is effective July 23, 2017.




GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana this 23rd day of July, 2017.



STEVE BULLOCK, Governor

ATTEST:



COREY STAPLETON, Secretary of State