



State of  
**North Dakota**

*Office of the Governor*

**Doug Burgum**  
*Governor*

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 2017-07**

**WHEREAS**, I, Doug Burgum, Governor of the State of North Dakota, by the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim a statewide fire and drought emergency exists in North Dakota; and

**WHEREAS**, warm, dry conditions, combined with high winds, lack of rainfall and low soil moisture levels, have had a detrimental impact on livestock water supplies, crop and pasture conditions throughout the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the June 20, 2017, U.S. Drought Monitor indicates drought conditions range from moderate to extreme in western and central North Dakota and abnormally dry conditions in eastern North Dakota; and,

**WHEREAS**, conditions across the State of North Dakota have not improved and are not expected to improve; there is no significant moisture forecast in the National Weather Service (NWS) outlooks; and

**WHEREAS**, thirty counties have issued fire emergency declarations, burn bans and/or other fire restrictions; and,

**WHEREAS**, dry conditions in areas of high fuel content have contributed to an increased fire risk and have a high likelihood of causing an outbreak of fires and catastrophic fires; and,

**WHEREAS**, this wildfire environment has developed much sooner in the fire season than normal and is expected to deteriorate further as the season progresses and will likely reach a level of severity not seen in several years; and,

**WHEREAS**, the vast majority of firefighting capabilities across North Dakota are located in local fire departments staffed by volunteers. The overly active and prolonged fire season currently projected will likely challenge the capacity of these departments to respond, generate an increased need for mutual aid, and create abnormal stress on the families and employers of these volunteers.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I hereby order activation of the North Dakota State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP) to guide a coordinated state response in support of local and tribal officials, alleviate hardships, implement appropriate response and recovery actions and future mitigation measures, and facilitate restoration of services and infrastructure.

I order all state agencies, to include the North Dakota National Guard, to maintain high readiness levels of drought and fire-related resources and capabilities in preparation for timely execution of their respective responsibilities pursuant to the SEOP. I authorize the Adjutant General to activate and make available North Dakota National Guard resources in support of local and tribal governments based upon normal cost share agreements.

This order is issued pursuant to the following authority and for the following reasons:

1. The Governor is vested with the executive authority pursuant to Article V, Section 1 of the North Dakota Constitution; and,
2. The governor is vested with statutory authority to issue executive orders to minimize or avert the effects of a disaster or emergency pursuant to Chapter 37-17.1 of the North Dakota Century Code; and,
3. A coordinated and effective effort of all state departments is required to minimize the impact of disasters and emergencies in this state; and,

This order is in effect immediately, and shall remain in effect until it is rescinded.

Executed this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2017.

  
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Doug Burgum  
Governor

Attest:

  
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Alvin A. Jaeger  
Secretary of State