

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2025-04

WHEREAS, North Dakota has experienced above average temperatures, gusty winds, low humidity, and dry vegetation, which has contributed to a strong likelihood of rapidly developing wildland fires this spring; and,

WHEREAS, recently observed fire behavior has been active and difficult to suppress; and,

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's fire weather outlook has been classified as "critical" or "elevated" on multiple occasions due to dry, windy conditions with ample fuel; and,

WHEREAS, it is anticipated there will be a prolonged spring fire season due to the early thaw and worsening drought conditions; and,

WHEREAS, the potential exists for rapidly moving wildland fires that threaten the safety of North Dakotans, their communities, and farmsteads, and may result in infrastructure, wildlife, livestock, feed, and crop losses, as well as damage to structures and miles of fencing; and,

WHEREAS, state resources have been, and continue to be, needed to fight wildland fires in North Dakota; and,

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the State of North Dakota to assist its citizens in addressing emergencies, disasters, and other hardships.

NOW THEREFORE, Kelly Armstrong, as Governor of North Dakota, by virtue of the authority vested under Article V, Section 1, North Dakota Constitution and North Dakota Century Code Chapter 37-17.1, hereby declares a statewide fire emergency and orders activation of the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP) in order to assist local and tribal officials, to prevent injuries and save lives, alleviate hardships, implement appropriate response and recovery actions and future mitigation measures, and facilitate restoration of services and infrastructure. All state agencies, including the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services, the North Dakota Forest Service, and the North Dakota National Guard, are ordered to maintain high readiness levels of fire-related resources and capabilities in preparation for timely execution of their respective responsibilities under the SEOP. The Adjutant General may activate and make available

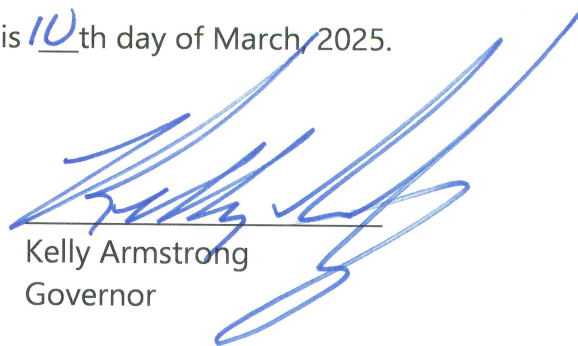
North Dakota National Guard resources to support state agencies and local and tribal governments based on normal cost shares.

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 agencies is required to minimize the impact of disasters and emergencies in this state.

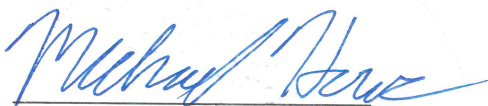
This order is in effect immediately and shall remain in effect until May 31st, 2025, or until it is rescinded.

Executed at Bismarck, North Dakota, this 10th day of March, 2025.



Kelly Armstrong
Governor

Attest:



Michael Howe
Secretary of State