



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON



For Immediate Release
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Governor Bill Richardson Declares a Disaster in Torrance County Because of Trigo Fire

Governor directs DHS to seek additional assistance from FEMA

SANTA FE- New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson this afternoon issued an Executive Order declaring a disaster in Torrance County because of the significant damage and ongoing threat to citizens and property caused by the Trigo Fire. Governor Richardson's declaration makes emergency state funding available to support firefighting efforts and assist in providing emergency public services.

"The state is standing with the people of Torrance County during this difficult and dangerous time," said Governor Richardson. "The funding I have made available will help support ongoing efforts to deal with the effects of the fire. Because of the serious extent of the destruction, I have also directed the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) to set the wheels in motion for possible assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA)."

Early assessments indicate that a large number of homes and buildings may have been damaged or destroyed by the fire which could make the state eligible for additional assistance from FEMA.

"We're working closely with federal, state, and local officials and will do whatever it takes to provide as much assistance as possible," said Tim Manning, New Mexico DHSEM Director.

The Governor's executive order also authorizes the New Mexico National Guard to provide additional support if needed.

Last week Governor Richardson surveyed the Trigo Fire by helicopter and met with fire officials on the ground. Yesterday the Governor visited the Southwest Coordination Center in Albuquerque where he was briefed about the fire's resurgence by federal and state officials.

Governor Richardson's Executive Order is attached.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2008-018

**DECLARING A DISASTER IN TORRANCE COUNTY DUE TO
THE TRIGO FIRE**

WHEREAS, the County of Torrance has been impacted by a severe wildfire, the Trigo Fire, commencing on or about April 15, 2008, and continuing to the present;

WHEREAS, the County of Torrance has issued or intends to issue a Disaster Resolution, stating that they have taken all actions within their power to limit the extent of damage and provide for public health and safety, and requesting assistance from the state;

WHEREAS, the County of Torrance has requested the state to provide them and any other eligible recipients within their jurisdiction whatever disaster assistance funding and technical expertise may be available;

WHEREAS, this disaster requires emergency action to protect the peace, health, and safety and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State of New Mexico; and,

WHEREAS, this disaster is of such magnitude as to be beyond local control and requires the resources of the State to avoid or minimize economic or physical harm and to take action necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the State of New Mexico, do hereby declare a state of Disaster to exist in Torrance County due to the effects of a severe wildfire.

I DIRECT the Department of Finance and Administration to make available emergency financial resources in an amount not to exceed \$750,000 to the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. The funds shall be expended for actions taken to avoid and minimize economic or physical harm and to protect the public health, safety, and welfare and shall be paid out only in an amount specified by warrants drawn by the Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration upon vouchers approved by the Governor or the Governor's designee.

I FURTHER DIRECT the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to coordinate all requests for assistance and responses to such requests under the authority of and as determined by the Governor and his Authorized Representative and to request such aid and assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency as may be appropriate.

I FURTHER DIRECT the Adjutant General to order into service any elements of the New Mexico National Guard as are or may be needed to provide military support

to civil authorities as needed for this emergency. This action is pursuant to and in accordance with NMSA 1978, §§ 20-1-1 through 20-1-8, NMSA 1978, §§ 20-2-1 through 20-2-8, and NMSA 1978, §§ 20-4-1 through 20-4-14. Such emergency assistance shall be provided during the period of need at the discretion of the Governor's Authorized Representative.

I FURTHER DIRECT all Cabinet Departments and agencies of the State of New Mexico to provide any assistance that may be required by the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management or by the State Emergency Operations Center under the authority of the Governor's Authorized Representative.

THIS ORDER supersedes any other previous orders, proclamations, or directives in conflict. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as the Governor rescinds it.

**ATTEST:
THIS**

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

2ND DAY OF MAY, 2008.

**MARY HERRERA
GREAT
SECRETARY OF STATE
MEXICO**

**WITNESS MY HAND AND THE
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW**

**BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO**