



# State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham  
*Governor*

## EXECUTIVE ORDER 2024-097

**DECLARING EMERGENCY IN LINCOLN COUNTY DUE TO THE ASH AND FIRE DEBRIS RESULTING FROM THE SOUTH FORK FIRE AND SALT FIRE AND AUTHORIZING THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY FULL POWER TO PROVIDE MUTUAL AID TO THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO**

**WHEREAS**, Lincoln County has been severely impacted by the South Fork Fire and Salt Fire, which both began on June 17, 2024;

**WHEREAS**, the South Fork Fire has already burned over 17,556 acres, threatened over 3,600 homes in and around the Village of Ruidoso and Alto, and is currently only 54% contained;

**WHEREAS**, The Salt Fire has already burned over 7,947 acres, threatened over 3,800 homes in and around the Village of Ruidoso Downs, and is only 38% contained;

**WHEREAS**, the South Fork Fire and Salt Fire have already claimed the lives of two people and directly impacted over 1,400 structures;

**WHEREAS**, the South Fork Fire and Salt Fire led to the evacuations of the Village of Ruidoso and many nearby communities;

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Ruidoso and the Mescalero Apache Reservation have both declared a local state of emergency as a result of the South Fork Fire and Salt Fire;

**WHEREAS**, I declared a state of emergency in Lincoln County and the Mescalero Apache Reservation due to the South Fork Fire and Salt Fire on June 18, 2024;

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Mexico has officially submitted a request that the President

of the United States grant a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of New Mexico for the South Fork Fire and Salt Fire;

**WHEREAS**, President Biden issued the requested Major Disaster Declaration on June 20, 2024;

**WHEREAS**, the South Fork Fire and Salt Fire have resulted in widespread hazardous debris, which contains potentially dangerous toxins, including heavy metals and asbestos, and which must be cautiously and expeditiously removed and properly disposed of;

**WHEREAS**, the Lincoln County Commission recognizes the imminent and proximate threat to public health from the ash and hazardous fire debris located on private property resulting from the South Fork Fire and Salt Fire;

**WHEREAS**, Lincoln County has issued a local disaster declaration for the ash and fire debris located on private property resulting from the South Fork Fire and Salt Fire;

**WHEREAS**, all local resources available have been insufficient to cope with the resulting ash and fire debris on private property in Lincoln County resulting from the South Fork Fire and Salt Fire;

**WHEREAS**, the disaster of the resulting ash and fire debris located on private property requires immediate action to protect public peace, health, and safety; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of New Mexico do hereby **DECLARE** a state of emergency to exist in Lincoln County due to the ash and fire

debris resulting from the South Fork Fire and Salt Fire that began on Wednesday, June 17, 2024, and **ORDER** and **DIRECT** as follows:

1. In accordance with NMSA 1978, Section 12-10-7 (2007), of the All Hazard Emergency Management Act, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and any other federal agencies, individuals, or entities performing work at their discretion, shall have the full power to provide mutual aid to the State of New Mexico and shall have the authority to enter private property in all impacted areas in Lincoln County to remove debris that may contain hazardous substances, and to conduct any testing appropriate to ensure the hazards are mitigated; provided that said entities and individuals shall first obtain a right of entry from the landowner prior to entering any private property.

2. The Adjutant General shall 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, Sections 20-1-1 to -8, NMSA 1978, Sections 20-2-1 to -8, and NMSA 1978, Sections 20-4-1 to -14. Such emergency assistance shall be provided during the period of need at the discretion of the Governor's Authorized Representative.

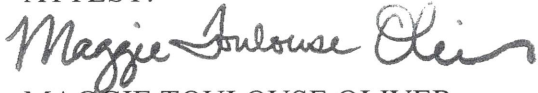
3. All Cabinet Departments and agencies under gubernatorial control shall provide any assistance that may be required by the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management or by the State Emergency Operations Center under the authority of the Governor's Authorized Representative.

**I FURTHER ORDER** and **DIRECT** as follows:

1. This Order supersedes any previous orders, proclamations, or directives to the extent they are in conflict.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until renewed, modified, or rescinded.

ATTEST:



MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER  
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
THIS 25TH DAY OF JUNE 2024

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT  
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM  
GOVERNOR

