



Spencer J. Cox
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER
2025-08

Declaring a State of Emergency Due to Fires

WHEREAS, on April 24, 2025, I declared a state of emergency for thirteen counties due to extreme or severe drought conditions, largely attributed to snow water equivalents below 50%, streamflow forecasts below 50%, and a snowpack peak measuring approximately 44% of normal;

WHEREAS, the 2025 water year's snowpack conditions have exacerbated fire conditions, with near to record low snowpack across the southwestern, south-central, and southeastern mountains, and an early spring melt-off prolonging the fire season by creating an extended warm/dry period;

WHEREAS, precipitation for the 2025 water year is in the bottom 10th percentile across southwestern, south-central, west-central, and northwestern Utah;

WHEREAS, fire restrictions and a fuels advisory are in place across the state;

WHEREAS, Utah has incurred 693 fires to date in 2025, encompassing nearly 114,000 acres burned and severely affecting state resources;

WHEREAS, the four largest active wildfires as of July 31st have burned more than 100,000 acres with the cost to fight fires exceeding \$103 million across all jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, as of July 31st, the National Weather Service has identified twenty-two Red Flag Warning days this year, indicating conditions likely to cause extreme fire behavior and pose a high risk of wildfires due to a combination of high winds, low humidity, and dry conditions;

WHEREAS, the wildfires and existing weather conditions throughout the state require immediate suppression to mitigate the threat to human life, structures, homes, livestock, and existing drinking water supplies;

WHEREAS, the enduring marks left on our landscape by past wildfires, such as burn scars, debris flows, and post-fire flooding, significantly worsen their detrimental effects;

WHEREAS, fighting wildfires and protecting the public from risks of wildfires have placed immense burdens on firefighting and law enforcement personnel;

WHEREAS, wildfires throughout the state have caused tremendous harm to individuals and families, the loss of homes, and damage to structures and critical infrastructure;

WHEREAS, Utah Code § 53-2a-206(1) authorizes the governor to declare a state of emergency by executive order;

WHEREAS, Utah Code § 53-2a-204(1)(a) authorizes the governor to utilize all available resources of state government as reasonably necessary to cope with a state of emergency;

WHEREAS, these conditions meet the definition of a state of emergency described in the Disaster Response and Recovery Act, specifically in Utah Code § 53-2a-206(1);

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Spencer J. Cox, governor of the state of Utah, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this state, hereby declare a state of emergency in the state due to fires and the risk of additional fires in the 2025 fire season.

THIS ORDER is effective immediately and shall remain in effect for 30 days, unless the legislature extends the state of emergency.



IN WITNESS, WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Utah. Done on this, the 31st day of July, 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Spencer J. Cox".

Spencer J. Cox
Governor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deidre M. Henderson".

Deidre M. Henderson
Lieutenant Governor