



STATE of MINNESOTA

Executive Department

Governor Tim Walz

Emergency Executive Order 26-08

Declaring a Peacetime Emergency and Continuing Assistance to Communities Impacted by Wildfires

I, Tim Walz, Governor of the State of Minnesota, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, issue the following executive order:

Minnesota has experienced unusually dry, hot, and windy weather this spring and summer, creating explosive wildfire conditions throughout much of the state. Beginning on July 11, 2026, the United States Forest Service closed 225,000 acres of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness ("BWCAW") because of multiple wildfires and continued dry conditions. The Forest Service reports that 17 wildfires have started in and around the BWCAW in the last week, which have resulted in evacuations and the closure of multiple trails and entry points. These fires are impacting the northwest part of the BWCAW, between Ely and Crane Lake, north of the Echo Trail, and south of Lac La Croix along the Canadian border. High winds and dry vegetation could ignite new fires and cause existing ones to spread rapidly. Those conditions are anticipated to continue in the area and especially in Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis Counties.

The Department of Natural Resources ("DNR") and the Department of Public Safety's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management ("HSEM") are supporting the impacted regions, but additional resources are needed. These agencies do not have adequate resources to continue to meet the demands caused by the wildfires or the threat to life and property that they pose. The DNR has requested fire suppression assets from the Minnesota National Guard to support the firefighting efforts—many of which are in hard-to-reach areas and require specialized air assets.

These fires are endangering life and property in our state, and local resources are inadequate to address the threat. Minnesota is committed to supporting the continued emergency response efforts to contain and control these fires.

For these reasons, I declare a peacetime emergency pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 2025, section 12.31 and order as follows:

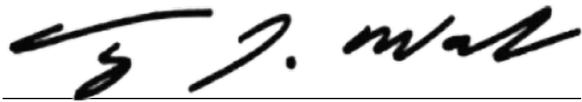
1. HSEM will continue to support the coordination of onsite resources and assistance to affected local governments and determine the need for supplemental emergency assistance.
2. All relevant state agencies, in cooperation with appropriate federal agencies, will provide the assistance necessary to help local units of government respond to and recover from this emergency.

3. The Adjutant General is authorized to order to state active duty the personnel, equipment, facilities, and resources needed to provide assistance throughout Minnesota.
4. The Adjutant General is authorized to procure the goods and services needed to accomplish the mission.
5. The costs of this assistance shall be paid from the general fund as allowed by Minnesota Statutes 2025, section 192.52.

This Executive Order and declaration of peacetime emergency are effective immediately under Minnesota Statutes 2025, section 4.035, subd. 2. The peacetime emergency declared in this Executive Order expires in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 2025, section 12.31, subd. 2. The remainder of this Executive Order, including the activation of the Minnesota National Guard, remains in effect until the emergency conditions caused by the wildfires subside or August 11, 2026, whichever occurs first.

A determination that any provision of this Executive Order is invalid will not affect the enforceability of any other provision of this Executive Order. Rather, the invalid provision will be modified to the extent necessary so that it is enforceable.

Signed on July 12, 2026.



Tim Walz, GOVERNOR

Filed According to Law:



Steve Simon, SECRETARY OF STATE

Filed July 12, 2026
Office of the Minnesota
Secretary of State
Steve Simon