



PUBLIC HEALTH DECLARATION NO. 2022-01

**LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY IN THE COUNTY OF EL DORADO  
MOSQUITO FIRE**

**WHEREAS**, The Mosquito Fire ignited on Tuesday September 6th, 2022, near Mosquito Ridge Road in Placer County, approximately 1 mile northeast of El Dorado County, approximately 4 miles Northeast of Volcanoville and 8 miles Northeast of downtown Georgetown, which are located in northern El Dorado County from an unknown source; and

**WHEREAS**, the fire has been burning in steep terrain severely affected by drought and having limited accessibility during a time of an extended statewide heat wave, causing it to grow to over 25,000 acres in just three days, about half of which is in El Dorado County; and

**WHEREAS**, as of September 9, 2022, the Mosquito Fire has 0% containment; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 9, 2022, by Resolution No. 142-2022, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors proclaimed a Local State of Emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 8, 2022, Governor Newsom issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency including the Mosquito Fire because the wildfire had damaged and destroyed homes, caused school closures and the evacuation of thousands of residents, and is threatening multiple communities and critical infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, as of September 9, 2022, the Mosquito Fire has destroyed or damaged approximately 25,000 acres of forestry and has damaged or threatens at least 4,300 structures, already creating an enormous amount of debris and is expected to create much more if it moves into additional developed residential areas; and

**WHEREAS**, debris from man-made structures burned in wildfires can contain many types of hazardous materials including asbestos, mercury, lead, cadmium, chromium, household chemicals, or medical waste, which pose substantial present and future hazards to human health and safety and to the environment unless they are properly and promptly mitigated; and

**WHEREAS**, there are imminent and proximate threats of exposure to inhaled particulate matter from ongoing smoke, dust, and environmental toxins, of transmission of communicable disease due to food storage failure or exposure to animals that may have succumbed to effects of the fire, and of pollution of nearby surface water; and

**WHEREAS**, future seasonal thunderstorms and inclement weather could spread hazardous material from the ash of the burned structures, polluting or contaminating surface water and the domestic water supplies of the affected areas of El Dorado County; and

**WHEREAS**, California Health and Safety Code section 101075 confers upon the local Health Officer emergency powers necessary to protect public health and safety; and

**WHEREAS**, California Health and Safety Code section 101080 authorizes the local Health Officer to declare the existence of a local health emergency when this County or any area of the county is affected or likely to be affected by a public health threat while the Board of Supervisors is not in session, subject to ratification by the Board of Supervisors within seven (7) days, and subject to reaffirmation every thirty (30) days thereafter until such local health emergency has ceased; and

**WHEREAS**, the Health Officer hereby finds that:

- (a) The Mosquito Fire has created and is expected to continue to create hazardous waste conditions in El Dorado County in the form of debris from household hazardous waste and other materials resulting from the destruction of residences and structures; and
- (b) Hazardous waste debris poses a substantial present or potential hazard to human health and the environment unless immediately addressed and managed; and
- (c) There is an imminent and proximate threat of infections or communicable disease and/or noncommunicable agents due to fire related debris or damaged health-protection systems; and
- (d) These threats to public health necessitate the declaration of a local health emergency.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS DECLARED** that a local health emergency exists in the County of El Dorado, due to hazardous waste in the form of contaminated debris from hazardous materials and structural debris from the ongoing Mosquito Fire; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS FURTHER DECLARED AND ORDERED** that during the existence of the local health emergency the powers, functions and duties of the Health Officer shall be those prescribed by State law, including the provisions of California Health and Safety Code sections 101040 and 101085; and by ordinances, resolutions, and approved plans of the County of El Dorado to mitigate the effects of the local emergency.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the El Dorado County Public Health Officer, Nancy Williams, MD, MPH, declares:

A local health emergency is declared in El Dorado County commencing at 2 pm on the 9th day of September 2022.



Nancy Williams, MD, MPH

Public Health Officer County of El Dorado