



PUBLIC HEALTH DECLARATION NO. 2021-01
LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY IN THE COUNTY OF EL DORADO
CALDOR FIRE

WHEREAS, The Caldor Fire ignited on Saturday August 14th, 2021 approximately 4 miles South of Grizzly Flats and 2 miles East of Omo Ranch in south central El Dorado County from an unknown source; and

WHEREAS, much of the fire has been burning in steep terrain with limited accessibility which led to dramatic expansion from high heat and winds during the first and second days along with the destruction of many homes in the community of Grizzly Flats; and

WHEREAS, as of August 20, 2021, the Caldor Fire has 0% containment; and

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2021, by Resolution No. 104-2021 the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors confirmed and ratified said Proclamation of Local State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, on August 17, 2021, Governor Newsom issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency due to the Caldor Fire because the wildfire had destroyed homes, caused the evacuation of residents, and destroyed community buildings and resources including at least one school and a post office; and

WHEREAS, as of August 19, 2021, the Caldor Fire has destroyed or damaged at least 104 structures in El Dorado County, already creating an enormous amount of debris and expected to create much more if the fire moves into additional developed residential areas; and

WHEREAS, the debris resulting from the wildfires that destroy man-made structures hazardous material in the ash of the burned structures, creating a health emergency and poses a substantial present and future hazard to human health and safety and to the environment unless it is addressed and managed; and

WHEREAS, there is an imminent and proximate threat of exposure to inhaled particulate matter from ongoing smoke, dust, and environmental toxins, communicable disease that could be transmitted due to food storage failure, pollution of nearby surface water, or exposure to animals that may have succumbed to effects of the fire; and

WHEREAS, future seasonal thunderstorms and inclement weather could spread hazardous material from the ash of the burned structures and could thereby pollute and contaminate 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 Caldor Fire has created and is expected to continue to create hazardous waste conditions in El Dorado County in the form of contaminated debris from household hazardous waste/materials and structural debris 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; 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 waste/materials and structural debris from the ongoing Caldor 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 noon on the 20th day of August, 2021.


Nancy Williams, MD, MPH
Public Health Officer
County of El Dorado