



Spencer J. Cox
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER
2025-03

Strengthening Wildfire Preparedness

WHEREAS, Utah is at risk of wildfires throughout the year;

WHEREAS, Utah's low soil moisture can create conditions favorable for wildfires;

WHEREAS, unpredictable factors such as weather can impact fire activity and may cause the rapid growth of wildfires;

WHEREAS, wildfires often come with post-fire risks of flooding and debris flows;

WHEREAS, despite increasingly difficult conditions, Utah's Fire Sense campaign helped reduce the number of human-caused wildfires in the state by almost 75% from 2020-2023;

WHEREAS, the bravery and commitment of Utah's state, local, and federal firefighters helps to keep our communities and natural resources safe;

WHEREAS, the Utah Legislature routinely adopts modern fire codes to ensure our buildings meet applicable fire protection standards;

WHEREAS, Utah's Post Wildfire Mitigation Team supports communities after wildfires to mitigate future impacts related to burn scars;

WHEREAS, increased engagement between state and local partners on wildfire management will help defend our communities from the threat of wildfires;

WHEREAS, there is always room to improve our state's wildfire prevention and mitigation efforts;

WHEREAS, identifying key areas for the state to focus on will give the state a path forward to prevent wildfires;

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 order the following:

1. **Purpose of Order.** The purpose of this order is to strengthen the state’s wildfire management and coordination to better prepare the state against risks of wildfire.
2. **Creation of Working Group on Wildfire Management.**
 - a. This order establishes a Working Group on Wildfire Management (“Working Group”).
 - b. The Working Group consists of the following members:
 - i. the executive director of the Department of Natural Resources;
 - ii. the director/state forester of the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands;
 - iii. the state fire management officer;
 - iv. the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety;
 - v. the director of the Division of Emergency Management; and
 - vi. the state fire marshal.
 - c. The Working Group shall create a report (“Report”) for the governor’s consideration to fulfill the purpose in Paragraph 1 of this order.
 - d. The Working Group may consult with local fire departments and other local government entities in preparing the report.
 - e. The Working Group shall deliver the Report to the governor by June 1, 2025.
3. **Contents of Report.**
 - a. The Report created by the Working Group shall discuss and provide recommendations concerning the following:
 - i. issues of greatest concern in a large scale wildfire incident;
 - ii. coordination with local, federal, and private partners, including approaches to mitigate hazardous fuels on federal lands;
 - iii. priority areas for hazardous fuel reduction;
 - iv. state supported evacuation planning;
 - v. preparing and coordinating on public messaging;
 - vi. wildfire prevention and preparedness education;
 - vii. recruitment and retention of firefighters;
 - viii. community planning that helps identify key values and ways to mitigate fire risk;
 - ix. fuels treatments on public and private lands in and around communities to reduce hazardous fuels and create fuel breaks;
 - x. the availability of and readiness of firefighting infrastructure, including water supply available for firefighting activities;
 - xi. defensible space around state buildings and schools; and
 - xii. any other information as determined by the Working Group.
4. **Recommendations to the Public.**
 - a. To prepare for this year’s fire season, I recommend that Utah residents:
 - i. have an emergency supply kit, make a plan, be informed;
 - ii. review Utah's Fire Sense and Be Ready Utah preparedness campaigns;
 - iii. sign up to receive local emergency alerts;
 - iv. review and understand insurance coverage;
 - v. know evacuation routes;
 - vi. include pets and other animals in emergency planning;
 - vii. gather and protect important documents;
 - viii. create defensible space around real property;
 - ix. make sure fire hydrants near real property are accessible during all times of the year; and
 - x. maintain, update, and test smoke detectors and fire suppression systems.

THIS ORDER is effective immediately and shall expire on June 1, 2025.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Utah. Done in Salt Lake City, Utah, on this, the 21 day of April, 2025.

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

Spencer J. Cox
Governor, State of Utah

ATTEST:

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

Deidre M. Henderson
Lieutenant Governor, State of Utah