

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

Section I. *Background and Purpose.*

The devastation of the recent Los Angeles fires has shocked the American people and awoken in all of us the realization that we must do better to protect our communities from catastrophic wildland fires. As of today, the incidents in the Pacific Palisades and wider Los Angeles metropolitan area have become the most expensive disaster in American history. From Lahaina Hawaii, to the Everglades of Florida, from the mountains of Montana to the forests of Maine, from Los Angeles to Washington state, wildland fire is a SO-state challenge that we have failed to properly prepare for. As ranchers in Texas and brave first responders in Los Angeles learned these past several months, our national wildland firefighting apparatus is insufficiently prepared to protect our communities.

Therefore, this Executive Order is directing the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior, on behalf of our Land Management agencies, and the United States Fire Administrator on behalf of state and local fire and public safety agencies, to immediately restructure our national wildland firefighting system, so that by the summer of 2025, we are able to rapidly and aggressively respond to our national wildland fire threat. The priority will be the immediate suppressing of fires and protecting our communities and critical infrastructure. Included in this is the immediate establishment of a national wildland firefighting task force that will spearhead these efforts. This task force will cut across all federal agencies and will have the full authority eliminate red tape, reform our agencies and reforge our efforts around the priority to address fighting fire fast. The task force will coordinate with state and local fire agencies to enhance capabilities, capacity, and readiness to leverage the workforce of our federal, tribal, state and local fire service. This will involve making structural changes to our current statutory environment and addressing the immediate and aggressive need to combat wildfire fighting across all SO of the United States. This Executive Order shall serve to overhaul our regulatory apparatus to protect American families from wildfire from coast to coast, year-round. The national mission shall be to provide the same level of response, protection, and competence that the American people have come to expect of their local emergency first responders.

Section 2. *Policy.* It is the policy of the United States to:

- a) Enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of wildland fire management operations;
- b) Streamline procurement processes for critical firefighting resources;
- c) Standardize operational procedures across federal, tribal, state and local agency response;
- d) Improve coordination between federal, state, local and private sector partners;

- e) Modernize systems and technology for wildland fire response;
- f) Establish year-round readiness requirements;
- g) Reduce bureaucratic barriers to effective response;
- h) Support workforce development through public-private partnerships.

Section 3. *Performance Standards and Metrics.*

- a) Within 90 days, the Secretaries of Agriculture, Interior, and Homeland Security shall:
 - i. Establish a consolidated wildland firefighting Task Force that is responsible for the coordination and direction of all efforts relating to wildland fires within the United States;
 - ii. Dissolve the Memorandum of Understanding dated Aug 2, 2024 authorizing the Wildland Fire Leadership Council.
 - iii. Establish a clear metric of performance for wildland fire management;
 - iv. Establish minimum aviation availability to meet established standards of cover and performance metrics for eight regions at Preparedness Level 3 and two regions at Preparedness Level 4
 - v. Maintain call when needed contracts for surge capacity of aviation assets to meet wildfire needs for preparedness levels that exceed minimum aviation availability standards.
- b) These metrics shall incorporate:
 - i. Response time measurements;
 - ii. Remote asset availability tracking;
 - iii. Mission success rate;
 - iv. Safety performance indicators.

Section 4. *Emergency Response Enhancement.*

- a) Within 60 days, the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior and Homeland Security shall:
 - i. Award new contracts and review existing contracts for opportunities to enhance wildland fire preparedness by extending or adding performance dates;
 - ii. Streamline dispatch processes for faster resource deployment, utilizing modern approaches to ensure cohesiveness across dispatch centers;
 - iii. Resolve issues between agency requirements to ensure there is no duplication of effort in the reciprocal acceptance of inspections and certifications for similar commercial contract equipment, supplies, and services;
 - iv. Review airtanker bases for modernization, refurbishments, enhancements, and expansion;

- v. Integrate all commercially available data in operations for the purpose of early wildland fire detection and monitoring; Establish and maintain a common data management framework at federal, state, and local levels for improved coordination.

- 1. In cooperation with other federal and state agencies, establish a fire environment center to provide real-time, science-based, and data-rich scientific and technical analytic services, decision support, and predictive services to inform land and fuels management, community risk reduction, and fire management and response.

- b) The Office of Management and Budget shall:

- i. Consolidate all wildland fire fighting accounts receiving annual appropriation, to include, but not limited to, the preparedness and suppression budgets for wildland fire disasters, to be moved into a single wildland firefighting preparedness account.

Section 5. Year-Round Readiness and Resource Management.

- a) Within 180 days, the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior and Homeland Security shall:

- i. Establish enhanced year-round resource requirements for readiness, and issue contracts for year-round readiness for a per contract term length of not more than 180 days;
 - ii. Develop seasonal readiness standards by geographic area;
 - iii. Create mechanisms for rapid resource mobilization;
 - iv. Implement regional resource sharing frameworks.

- b) The Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior and Homeland Security shall establish programs for:

- i. Mechanic apprenticeships and training;
 - ii. Third-party certification of aircraft, pilots, chemicals and equipment;
 - iii. Joint training initiatives between public and private resources;
 - iv. Regional resources sharing agreements.

Section 6. Industry Collaboration and Bureaucracy Reduction.

- a) The Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior and Homeland Security shall:

- i. Mandate bi-annual collaboration events between agency and industry;
 - ii. Require public disclosure of dispatch orders;
 - iii. Develop contract requirements and performance metrics with industry input;
 - iv. Establish data sharing protocols;

- v. Create an innovation partnership framework for new technology adoption.
- b) Within 120 days, the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior and Homeland Security shall:
 - i. Establish a Wildfire Management Contracting Advisory Board;
 - ii. Review and streamline administrative requirements;
 - iii. Begin development of commercial equipment and technology standards.
- c) Within 60 days, the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior and Homeland Security shall create guidance for:
 - i. Systematic collection of industry feedback;
 - ii. Regular technology assessment forums;
 - iii. Joint training programs
- d) Additionally, within 30 days: Agencies responsible for wildland firefighting shall be directed to immediately suspend, on a temporary basis, pending permanent review and restructure, all agency rules to prevent and aid in the rapid response of wildland fire:
 - a. Dispatch centers and contract managers select contractors;
 - b. Suspend Lowest price Technically Acceptable award criteria for contract;
 - c. United States Forest Service must accept Federal Aviation Administration standards for certification to eliminate duplicative aircraft carding and inspections;
 - d. Elimination of requirement for initial attack rated lead planes for the dispatch of Very Large Airtankers, Large Airtankers and other aircraft, and leverage tactical discretion of incident commander's and incident management teams ability to waive contract requirements in accordance with evaluated situational severity;
 - e. Maximize use of long-term contracts for ground assets and aerial assets, eliminating expensive short-term "call when needed" contracts that reduce readiness and increase cost;
 - f. Require areas that are "high fire danger", as determined by the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior, can have a standard response time of 30 minutes.
 - g. Agency must prioritize use of American based assets over foreign assets.
 - h. Suspend and review small business regulations that restrict growth and competition within the wildland fire contracting industry.
 - i. Standardize certifications and inspections across agencies in preparation for consolidation;
 - ii. Develop recommendations for Commercial Drivers License requirements in emergency response.
 - i. Recognize state and local government authorities to utilize public use, non-certificated, aircraft

- j. Eliminate the requirement for Aircraft managers to be assigned to assets in order for them to be dispatched
- k. Allow for the Incident Commander, Fire Management Officer, or Air Tactical Group to suspend Aerial Supervision Standards, so that aerial suppression can be as prompt as possible.

Section 7. Implementation and Oversight.

- a) Each agency shall designate a senior official responsible for implementation within 30 days;
- b) The Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior and Homeland Security shall provide quarterly progress reports to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;
- c) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall review implementation progress and provide recommendations for improvement every 180 days.

Section 8. General Provisions.

- a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:
 - i. The authorities granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or
 - ii. The functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.
- b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations
- c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

Section 9. Permanent Organizational Creation.

- a) Inhere by direct the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of the Interior:
 - a. Immediately begin the process to make permanent the temporary provisions outlined in this order so that, by 2026, we have a National Wildland Fire Agency, to be established by Congress, that is led by a Chief of National Wildland Fire that is responsible for all wildland fire fighting nationwide.