

State of Connecticut

By His Excellency

Ned Lamont

Executive Order 24-3

WHEREAS, on October 25, 2024, I issued a declaration of civil preparedness emergency pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) section 28-9 for the emergency response of the Hawthorne Fire starting on October 21, 2024, as well as for the continued response to other fires across the state until weather conditions improve, and a significant fire threat is no longer present; and

WHEREAS, the State has had more than 220 wildland fires since October 21, 2024. Local fire departments have been overwhelmed responding to this situation; and

WHEREAS, CGS section 23-39 specifies that the chief of any volunteer fire company may prepare bills for services rendered in extinguishing forest fires, if said company is allowed by town ordinance to receive payment for such bills, and those bills must be submitted to the State Forest Fire Warden within a month of the services being rendered, and, if found correct and approved by said warden, shall be ordered paid by the State Comptroller. Bills for expenses incurred or services rendered by district or deputy wardens in the performance of duties other than firefighting shall be submitted to the State Forest Fire Warden on or before the tenth day of December and the tenth day of June in each year. Upon approval by the State Forest Fire Warden, such bills shall be ordered paid by the State Comptroller from any sums available for the expenses of the State Forest Fire Warden; and

WHEREAS, the State Forest Fire Warden has requested allowing additional time beyond that allowed by CGS section 23-29 for District Fire Wardens to submit bills to lessen their immediate administrative workload, to be able to recuperate covered costs, and to continue to effectively respond to fires in the State; and

WHEREAS, CGS section 28-9(b) authorizes and empowers the Governor to take such steps as are reasonably necessary in light of such emergency to protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state, and to modify and suspend in whole or in part, any statute, regulation or requirement or part thereof, whenever the Governor is of the opinion that it is in conflict with the efficient and expeditious execution of civil preparedness functions or the protection of the public health; and

WHEREAS, continuous extreme fire conditions resulting from the multitude of fires have made it impossible for volunteer fire departments to meet current statutory administrative requirements for preparing and submitting bills related to the management and control of these fires,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NED LAMONT, Governor of the State of Connecticut, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Connecticut, including section 28-9 of the General Statutes, do hereby **ORDER AND DIRECT**:

1. **Extension of time for Volunteer Fire Departments to submit bills to the State Forest Fire Warden:** For any services rendered during this civil preparedness emergency, the chief of any volunteer fire company may prepare bills for services rendered by said company and by the personnel and automobiles and other apparatus employed or used by them in extinguishing

forest fires, if said company is allowed by town ordinance to receive payment for such bills. Such bills shall be submitted to the State Forest Fire Warden within three months of the civil preparedness emergency ending, and, if found correct and approved by said warden, shall be ordered paid by the State Comptroller, pursuant to procedures found in Connecticut General Statutes section 23-39.

This order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect for six months, unless modified or revoked by me.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut, this 26th day of November 2024.



Ned Lamont
Governor



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SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CAPITOL OFFICE
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