

**DECLARATION OF A LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY
GRAND VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
GARFIELD AND MESA COUNTIES, COLORADO**

WHEREAS, the Grand Valley Fire Protection District ("*District*") is a political subdivision of the State of Colorado, organized pursuant to the Special District Act, C.R.S. § 32-1-101, *et seq.* ("*Act*"), to provide fire, life safety, and emergency medical services (collectively, "*Emergency Services*") to the citizens and property within its jurisdiction, and to individuals passing through its jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-709 authorizes the principal executive officer of a political subdivision to declare a local disaster, which local disaster declaration shall not continue or be renewed for a period in excess of seven days, except with the consent of the governing board of the political subdivision;

WHEREAS, the effect of any such local disaster declaration is to activate the response and recovery aspects of any and all applicable local and interjurisdictional disaster emergency plans and to authorize the furnishing of aid and assistance under such plans;

WHEREAS, the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, commonly referred to as COVID-19, is highly infectious and can cause severe and potentially fatal respiratory symptoms in infected individuals. The spread of COVID-19 has been declared a pandemic, its presence has been detected in the State of Colorado, and residents and visitors within the District's jurisdiction are at risk of contracting COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the risks posed by this threat require the District to prepare its emergency response personnel and services as necessary to respond to the potentially rapid and severe spread of COVID-19 within its jurisdiction, the County of El Paso and the State of Colorado, and to coordinate its response with other State and local emergency response agencies and other governmental entities, in order to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 and to recover from this local disaster emergency; and

WHEREAS, the financial, administrative, and operational resources necessary to respond to the COVID-19 local disaster emergency impose a significant and potentially detrimental burden on the District's capabilities.

NOW THEREFORE, I, David A. Blair, the principal executive officer of the District, hereby declare a local disaster emergency within the jurisdiction and boundaries of the Grand Valley Fire Protection District, in the County of Garfield and County of Mesa, State of Colorado due to the imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property from the presence and spread of COVID-19.

This declaration of local disaster shall be given prompt and general publicity and shall be filed with (1) the Clerk and Recorder of Garfield County and Clerk and Recorder of Mesa County; (2) the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Division of Local Government; and (3) the Office of Emergency Management. This declaration shall expire if not continued or renewed by the Grand Valley Fire Protection District Board of Directors within a period of seven days.




David A. Blair, Fire Chief

3-18-2020

Date


THIS DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY IS HEREBY CONTINUED AND RENEWED BY THE GRAND VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT A PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON 3-18 2020.



Kevin Whelan, President of the Board of Directors

3/18/20

Date

ATTEST: 

Michelle Foster, Secretary