



**ERNIE FLETCHER**  
GOVERNOR

**EXECUTIVE ORDER**

**2007-819**  
**October 4, 2007**

**Secretary of State**

Frankfort  
Kentucky

**STATE OF EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of Kentucky is experiencing extreme drought conditions, which have led to an extraordinarily hazardous fire occurrence; and

**WHEREAS**, over 12,000 acres of forests have burned threatening hundreds of homes and structures in the Commonwealth since August 2007 at a time when no fires typically exist, and

**WHEREAS**, forest fires are continuing to occur in the Commonwealth in large numbers at the start of forest fire hazard season; and

**WHEREAS**, the large number of forest fires are exhausting the fire fighting resources of the Commonwealth; and

**WHEREAS**, weather forecasts indicate a prolonged dry period with no significant precipitation expected in the Commonwealth; and

**WHEREAS**, these conditions endanger the public health and safety and threaten the natural resources of the Commonwealth.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I Ernie Fletcher, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, under the authority vested in me by the Kentucky Constitution, Sections 69 and 81, and by KRS 39A.010, 39A.090 and 39A.100, do hereby **DECLARE** that a state of emergency exists within the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and do hereby **ORDER** and **DIRECT** the following:

1. All open burning within the Commonwealth of Kentucky is prohibited unless first approved by the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet.
2. The Division of Forestry, in coordination with the Division of Emergency Management, shall coordinate the response and relief activities of all state agencies, federal resources, and private relief organizations as specified in the Kentucky Emergency Operations Plan.
3. The Division of Forestry is authorized to request such other state and federal assistance as may be available to minimize human suffering, restore public services and to alleviate unanticipated financial obligations on state and local governments resulting from this emergency.
4. All state law enforcement personnel in the Commonwealth of Kentucky shall enforce this Executive Order. In addition, all local governments of the Commonwealth are requested to direct their law enforcement personnel to aid in the enforcement of this Executive Order.
5. Any person who violates the ban on open burning established in this Executive Order shall be subject to the penalties provided under KRS 39A.990, and/or such other penalties as are provided under state law.
6. This Executive Order shall remain in effect until rescinded by further Order.

  
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**ERNIE FLETCHER**  
Commonwealth of Kentucky

  
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**TREY GRAYSON**  
Secretary of State