



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

20-68

WHEREAS, since July 2020, Washington State has been experiencing abnormally dry weather conditions with periods of exceptionally high temperatures throughout the state creating high-risk fuel conditions in many areas; and

WHEREAS, there are multiple on-going wildfires in Central and Eastern Washington, and current weather forecasts predict continued elevated temperatures, windy conditions and localized lightning in the Central and Eastern part of the state over the next week, and those conditions are predicted to continue through August and September which will create an active burning environment capable of producing significant multiple wildfires which will also require the need for additional immediate response in Central and Eastern Washington; and

WHEREAS, the threat to life and property from wildfires is extreme and could cause extensive damage to homes, public facilities, businesses, public utilities, infrastructure, agriculture, and natural resources impacting the life and health of citizens throughout Central and Eastern Washington, all of which affect life, health, property, or the public peace, and is a public disaster demanding immediate action; and

WHEREAS, current availability of firefighting resources throughout the state of Washington and the western United States are limited due to existing and projected fire conditions and activities throughout the region, and existing firefighting resources may already be committed to fighting wildfires throughout the Pacific Northwest; and

WHEREAS, significant wildfires burning in Central and Eastern Washington and in neighboring states combined with limited access to Canadian firefighting resources due to COVID-19 movement restrictions have greatly reduced civilian aviation resources; and

WHEREAS, multiple fires are currently active in the Olympic Peninsula area; and

WHEREAS, the entire state is currently experiencing extremely warm, dry weather, as well as an increased number of people venturing outdoors into the wilderness; and

WHEREAS, because available firefighting resources may not be adequate to address the outbreak of simultaneous large wildfires resulting from the above noted conditions, the Washington National Guard is needed to assist local jurisdictions and state agencies throughout Central and Eastern Washington, and possibly elsewhere in the state with this public disaster and for the public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the threat to life and property from existing wildfires is significant and could cause extensive damage to homes, public facilities, businesses, public utilities, and infrastructure impacting the life and health of people throughout Washington State, all of which affect life, health, property, or the public peace, and is a public disaster demanding immediate action; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Military Department has activated the State Emergency Operations Center, implemented response procedures, is coordinating resources to support state and local officials in alleviating the immediate social and economic impacts to people, property and infrastructure, and is continuing to assess the wildfire danger resulting from existing high risk weather and fire fuel conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the above-noted situation, and under Chapters 38.08, 38.52 and 43.06 RCW, do hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency exists statewide in Washington State, and direct the plans and procedures of the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan be implemented. State agencies and departments are directed to utilize state resources and to do everything reasonably possible to assist affected political subdivisions in an effort to respond to and recover from the incidents. Additionally, the Washington State Emergency Operations Center is instructed to coordinate all incident-related assistance to the affected areas.

As a result of this event, I also hereby order into active state service the organized militia of Washington State to include the National Guard and the State Guard, or such part thereof as may be necessary in the opinion of The Adjutant General, to perform such duties as directed by competent authority of the Washington Military Department in addressing this event.

This order remains in effect until 11:59 pm on September 30, 2020, unless rescinded or extended by a subsequent order.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington this 19th day of August, A.D., Two Thousand and Twenty at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/
Jay Inslee, Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/
Secretary of State