



PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

16-06

WHEREAS, there are multiple on-going wildfires in many areas of Eastern Washington, and new wildfires requiring the use of limited state and local firefighting resources have arisen over the last twenty-four hours in Franklin, Lincoln, Spokane, and Stevens counties; and

WHEREAS, current weather forecasts predict continuing elevated temperatures and windy conditions throughout Eastern Washington for the next seven days, with hot and dry conditions through September, which, combined with the existing high-risk fuel conditions, support an active burning environment capable of producing significant multiple wildfires requiring the need for additional immediate response in all counties of 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, and infrastructure impacting the life and health of citizens throughout 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 is 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, 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 and State Guard may be needed to assist local jurisdictions and state agencies throughout Eastern Washington with this public disaster and for the public health, safety, and welfare; 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.

