



PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

18-05

WHEREAS, dangerous fire fuel and weather conditions exist throughout the state of Washington, creating a high risk of severe wildfires igniting and demanding immediate response of firefighting resources to protect people, homes, businesses, and public and private property; and

WHEREAS, since July 2018, we have experienced abnormally dry conditions with periods of above-average temperatures throughout the State creating dangerously high fire fuel conditions in many areas which, when combined with projected weather and fire fuel conditions for August and September, present a high risk of severe wildfire outbreaks requiring an immediate response; and

WHEREAS, current weather forecasts predict elevated temperatures with localized lightning and windy conditions throughout the State for the next week, and seasonal weather forecasting models project warmer and drier than normal weather conditions to continue through September, which, when combined with existing high-risk fire fuel conditions, support an extremely active burning environment capable of producing multiple large wildfires requiring the need for immediate response; and

WHEREAS, the State has already experienced multiple wildfires in June and July, and in the past two weeks new wildfires have required additional responsive commitment by our limited firefighting resources; 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 current availability of firefighting resources throughout the state of Washington 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 the state of 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.

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 in all counties in the state of Washington, 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.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the State of Washington this 31st day of July, A.D, Two Thousand and Eighteen at Olympia, Washington.

By:

_____/s/_____
Jay Inslee, Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

_____/s/_____
Secretary of State