



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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**PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
AMENDING PROCLAMATION 20-68**

20-72

Wildfires – Temporary Assistance to Families

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-68, proclaiming a State of Emergency for all counties throughout the state of Washington as a result of multiple on-going wildfires, abnormally dry weather conditions, and periods of exceptionally high temperatures throughout the state creating high-risk fuel conditions in many areas; and

WHEREAS, there are multiple new wildfires throughout Washington State caused by a historic wind event this week that brought high winds from the east to the west, and current weather forecasts predict continued elevated temperatures and windy conditions throughout the State over the next week, and those conditions are predicted to continue through September which will increase the current burning environment capable of producing and impacting the ability to contain significant multiple wildfires; and

WHEREAS, approximately 330,000 acres burned on Labor Day, September 7, 2020, and multiple fires are currently active in the State; and

WHEREAS, the threat to life and property from wildfires is extreme and has and could continue to cause damage to homes, public facilities, businesses, public utilities, infrastructure, agriculture, and natural resources impacting the life and health of citizens throughout 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 Washington and in the Pacific Northwest combined with limited access to Canadian firefighting resources due to COVID-19 movement restrictions have greatly reduced civilian aviation resources; and

WHEREAS, under RCW 74.04.660(6), during a state of emergency, the Governor is authorized to extend eligibility for benefits under the Family Emergency Assistance Program to individuals and families without children; and

WHEREAS, the property damage caused by the wildfires has caused economic hardship on individuals and families without children who usually would not be eligible for the Family Emergency Assistance Program in RCW 70.04.660; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the economic impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic on Washington State, many families have received benefits under the Family Emergency Assistance Program, established by the Department of Social and Health Services under RCW 74.04.660; and

WHEREAS, under RCW 74.04.660, households are only eligible for Family Emergency Assistance Program once in a 12-month period and therefore, households who already received Family Emergency Assistance Program for COVID-19 related issues would not be eligible for again related to wildfires in the same 12-month period unless that statutory provision is waived; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of RCW 74.04.660 have already been extended to families without children in proclamations related to the pandemic, Proclamations 20-18, 20-52, 20-65 and 20-66; and

WHEREAS, the effect of these fires continues to impact the life and health of our citizens, as well as the property and transportation infrastructure of Washington State, and is a public disaster that affects life, health, property, or the public peace.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay R. Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the above-noted situation and under RCW 38.08, 38.52 and 43.06, do hereby proclaim that a state of emergency exists in all 39 counties and that Proclamation 20-68, remains in effect, and that Proclamation 20-68 - Wildfires is amended to clarify that the statutory waiver in and extension of RCW 74.04.660 is intended to also be applicable to families with or without children who are suffering economic impacts of the wildfires.

I again direct the plans and procedures of the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* be implemented. State agencies and departments are again 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 event. My order into active state service of the Washington State organized militia also remains in effect. The Washington State Emergency Operations Center is instructed to continue monitoring the event and coordinating all event-related assistance to the affected areas.

ACCORDINGLY, pursuant to RCW 43.06.220(2)(c) and RCW 74.04.660(6), I again authorize and direct the Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services to expand eligibility for the Family Emergency Assistance Program to include individuals and families without children.

FURTHERMORE, pursuant to RCW 43.06.220(2)(c), I also order that the limitation of benefits provided under the Family Emergency Assistance Program to one period of time within any consecutive 12-month period under RCW 74.04.660(1) is waived and suspended in its entirety.

FURTHERMORE, based on the above situation and under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(2)(g), I also find that strict compliance with the following statutory and regulatory obligations or limitations will prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action by the Department of Social and Health Services in responding to the State of Emergency described herein, and that RCW 74.04.660(1) is hereby waived and suspended in its entirety, except as otherwise provided herein, until midnight on September 30, 2020.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington this 10th day of September, A.D., Two Thousand and Twenty at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/
Jay Inslee, Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/
Secretary of State