



STATE OF WASHINGTON
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE —

EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR 23-05

2023 Wildfires

WHEREAS, since July 2023, 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 ongoing wildfires in Western, Central, and Eastern Washington, and significant wildfire potential is predicted to continue through the remainder of August, September, and October due to the high risk fuel conditions capable of producing multiple significant wildfires which would require the need for additional immediate response in all areas of the state of Washington; 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 be committed to fighting wildfires throughout the Pacific Northwest if a large fire outbreak occurs; and

WHEREAS, Washington currently has significant and dangerous fires burning throughout the state, including extremely volatile and dangerous fires burning in Eastern Washington, creating a need to have all necessary firefighting resources readily available; and

WHEREAS, because available firefighting resources may not be adequate to address the current outbreak and future outbreaks 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 has caused and could cause harm to persons as well as extensive damage to homes, public facilities, businesses, public utilities, and infrastructure, all impacting the life and health of people throughout Washington State and 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, has 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 aforementioned situation and under Chapters 38.52 and 43.06 RCW, do hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency exists in all areas of the state of Washington, and direct the plans and procedures in 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 event. Additionally, the Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division, is instructed to coordinate all event-related assistance to the affected areas.

FURTHERMORE, as a result of this incident, 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 situation.

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

By:

/s/

Jay Inslee, Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/

Secretary of State