

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

12-09

WHEREAS, current and projected weather conditions for August 18-19, 2012, and existing fire fuel conditions, present a continuing high risk of severe wildfires throughout all counties of Washington State; and

The State's last significant rainfall was 26 days ago on July 23, 2012, followed by a series of heat waves and winds creating high risk fire fuel conditions supporting an active burning environment throughout the State; and

The current combination of high risk fire fuel conditions and a weather forecast of significant lightning throughout the State for the upcoming weekend creates significant risk of multiple simultaneous lightning-caused wildfires, requiring immediate response in all counties of the State; and

Multiple ongoing wildfires in Eastern Washington have resulted in destruction of and damage to homes, businesses, infrastructure and natural resources, and currently require the use of significant levels of State and local fire fighting resources that are not available for responding to new wildfires; and

The availability of firefighting resources throughout the State and neighboring states is extremely limited due to existing and projected firefighting efforts throughout the region; and

The severe wildfire risk and danger to homes, public facilities, businesses, public utilities, and infrastructure resulting from these conditions affects the life, health, property, or the public peace, and is a public disaster demanding immediate action; and

Because current firefighting resources may not be adequate to address the outbreak of simultaneous, large wildfires resulting from the above-noted conditions throughout the State, the Washington National Guard and State Guard may need to be made available to assist local jurisdictions and state agencies with this public disaster and for the public health, safety and welfare; and

The Washington State Military Department has activated the state Emergency Operations Center, implemented response procedures, is coordinating resources to support local officials in

alleviating the immediate social and economic impacts to people, property and infrastructure, and is continuing to assess the extreme wildfire danger resulting from existing high risk weather and fire fuel conditions; and

Governor Christine O. Gregoire is currently outside the state of Washington and I am therefore the acting Governor pursuant to RCW 43.06.040.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Brad Owen, Lieutenant Governor of the state of Washington, pursuant to my authority under RCW 43.06.040, 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 of 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 wildfires. 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 for the circumstances described above, to perform such duties as directed by competent authority of the Washington State Military Department. Additionally, the Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division, is instructed to coordinate all event-related assistance to the affected areas.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington this 17th day of August, A.D, Two Thousand and Twelve at Olympia, Washington.

By:

_____/s/_____
Brad Owen
Lieutenant Governor

BY THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR:

_____/s/_____
Secretary of State