

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

12-12

WHEREAS, current and projected weather conditions through September 23, 2012, and existing fire fuel conditions, present a continuing high risk of severe wildfires in all counties East of the crest of the Cascade Mountains of Washington State; and

The State's last significant rainfall was on July 23, 2012, with subsequent elevated temperatures and winds bringing the fuel moisture index below the major fire support level and creating high risk fire fuel conditions in all sectors in the state; and

Current weather forecasts predict continuing elevated temperatures and windy conditions throughout Eastern Washington for the next two weeks, which combined with the existing high risk fuel conditions support an active burning environment capable of producing significant multiple wildfires requiring the need for immediate response in all counties in Eastern Washington; and

Multiple ongoing wildfires in Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Skamania, and Yakima counties currently threaten over 500 homes, resulting in numerous evacuations, may result in additional damage to other homes, infrastructure, natural resources, and businesses, 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 threat to life and property from wildfires is extreme and could cause extensive additional damage to homes, public facilities, businesses, public utilities, and infrastructure impacting the life and health of our citizens throughout Eastern Washington, all of which affect the life, health, property, or the public peace, and is a public disaster demanding immediate action; and

Since adequate firefighting resources are not immediately available to address the outbreak of additional large wildfires that may erupt throughout Eastern Washington as a result of the current high risk fire conditions, the Washington National Guard and State Guard are needed to assist local jurisdictions and state agencies with this public disaster and for the public health, safety or 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, 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 East of the crest of the Cascade Mountains 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 event. 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 address the circumstances described above, to perform such duties as directed by competent authority of the Washington State Military Department. Additionally, the Washington State Emergency Operations Center 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 13th day of September, A.D, Two Thousand and Twelve at Olympia, Washington.

By:

_____/s/_____
Christine O. Gregoire
Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

_____/s/_____
Secretary of State