

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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**PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
AMENDING PROCLAMATIONS 12-12, 12-13, 12-14, 12-15 AND 12-16**

12-17

WHEREAS, Proclamation 12-12 was issued on September 13, 2012, proclaiming a state of emergency in all counties East of the crest of the Cascade Mountains of Washington State due to current and projected weather conditions, existing fire fuel conditions that present a continuing high risk of severe wildfires, and ongoing multiple wildfires requiring significant levels of limited state and local fire fighting resources; and

Proclamation 12-13 was issued on September 14, 2012, imposing a temporary outdoor burn ban in all counties East of the crest of the Cascade Mountains of Washington State by prohibiting all outdoor and agricultural burning as specified until midnight on Tuesday, September 18, 2012; and

Subsequently, amending Proclamations 12-14, 12-15, and 12-16 were issued proclaiming that Proclamation 12-12 remains in effect and continuously extending the outdoor burn ban imposed by Proclamation 12-13 in all counties East of the crest of the Cascade Mountains of Washington State until midnight on Sunday, October 7, 2012; and

The threat to life and property from wildfires throughout all counties in Eastern Washington remains very high, which continue to threaten extensive additional damage to homes, public facilities, businesses, public utilities, and infrastructure impacting the life and health of our citizens throughout Washington, all of which affect the life, health, property, or the public peace, and was declared in Proclamation 12-12 to be a public disaster demanding immediate action; and

Fire conditions in all counties West of the crest of the Cascade Mountains of Washington State now are as severe as the conditions in the counties East of the crest of the Cascade Mountains, with a new 150 acre wildfire in Mason County and projected high fire danger throughout Western Washington for the next seven to ten days due to continuing dry weather conditions, low atmospheric moisture, and extremely dry fire fuel conditions; and

Abnormally dry weather conditions persist throughout the State with no substantial precipitation forecast for the next seven to ten days, and fire fuel conditions continue to present an active burning environment with a very high potential for producing new and multiple wildfires and rapid fire growth on public and private lands in all counties in Washington State; and

Unhealthy to hazardous air quality in areas of Eastern Washington continue to threaten life, health, and property due to existing wildfires, and this threat will be exacerbated by new wildfires in Eastern and Western Washington; and

Based on the continuing elevated risks of new and multiple wildfires throughout the State, threats to air quality, and limited availability of fire fighting resources that have already been severely taxed by the widespread wildfires and extended fire season, this amendment expands the area affected by Proclamation 12-12 and the area affected by the burn ban imposed by Proclamation 12-13 to include all counties in Washington State, and extends the time period during which outdoor burning activities should be prohibited to help preserve and maintain life, health, property or the public peace; 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 Proclamation 12-12 remains in effect in all counties East of the crest of the Cascade Mountains and that a State of Emergency also exists in all counties West of the crest of the Cascade Mountains in the state of Washington. 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 and the Washington State Emergency Operations Center is again instructed to coordinate all event-related assistance to the affected areas, which now include all counties in the state of Washington.

Under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(1)(i) and RCW 43.06.040, to preserve and maintain life, health, property or the public peace, I also hereby expand the temporary outdoor burn ban imposed by Proclamation 12-13 and extended in Proclamations 12-14, 12-15, and 12-16 to all counties in the state of Washington. Outdoor and agricultural burning is prohibited throughout all counties until midnight on Monday, October 15, 2012. Outdoor burning includes but is not limited to campfires, bonfires, residential yard debris clean-up, trash disposal, land clearing, weed abatement, agricultural burning activity and ignition of fireworks. Liquid fueled or gas-fueled stoves are permitted provided the use is over a non-flammable surface and at least five feet from flammable vegetation. Charcoal grills are permitted at private residences provided the use is over a non-flammable surface and at least five feet from flammable vegetation. Nothing in this order supersedes more restrictive provisions of the counties, municipalities, fire districts, other political subdivisions, or public or private landowners. Nothing in this order supersedes fire permits issued by a local authority after the effective date of this proclamation that provide specific written approval for the prescribed burning activity. This order does not apply to firefighting activities by authorized firefighters acting in accordance with the fire fighting plan.

All persons are advised of potential criminal penalties for violation of this order pursuant to RCW 43.06.220.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington this 7th day of October, A.D., Two Thousand and Twelve at Olympia, Washington.

By:

_____/s/_____
Brad Owen
Lieutenant Governor

BY THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR:

_____/s/_____
Secretary of State