

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20-35

PROCLAMATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO IMMINENT THREAT OF WILDFIRE

Pursuant to ORS 401.165 *et seq.*, I find that the State of Oregon is in a critical fire danger situation. Much of the State is now in extreme fire danger and red flag warnings have been issued for hot, dry, windy conditions and dry thunderstorms. We have experienced wildfires this season that resulted in evacuations, threatened critical infrastructure, and destroyed homes and other structures. Our neighboring states of Washington, California, Nevada, and Idaho, continue to experience similar fires and weather. The extended forecast in Oregon calls for continued warm and dry conditions, resulting in imminent threat of fire over a broad area of the State.

The Oregon Department of Forestry is heavily engaged in initial and extended wildfire attack, and National Interagency Teams are currently deployed in Oregon. Regional compacts are also being utilized for the deployment of specific wildland fire resources to Oregon. New and existing fire threats elevate the need for immediate access to state resources including firefighting aircraft. This threat is not likely to recede in the near future. It is critically important that National Guard resources be positioned to expedite requested resources and respond effectively to these dangerous and dynamic conditions.

Furthermore, Oregon continues to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, which will add complexity to wildland firefighting and operations to protect Oregonians whose homes or businesses may be threatened by wildfire.

Therefore, I hereby declare a statewide **State of Emergency** due to the imminent threat of wildfire.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS DIRECTED AND ORDERED:

1. All agencies of the state government will utilize and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities for any and all activities as requested by the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon Office of the State Fire Marshal, and coordinated by the Oregon Office of Emergency Management, to respond to or mitigate the effects of the wildfire emergency. The Oregon National Guard will deploy and redeploy firefighting resources as needed and in accordance with Operations Agreement Smokey 2020 throughout the remainder of the fire season based upon threat and resource shortfalls. All citizens are to heed the advice of emergency officials with regard to this emergency in order to protect their safety.



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2. Incident managers, firefighters, emergency managers, evacuation center and shelter workers, and all other emergency responders and support personnel should take every possible precaution when responding to wildfires to prevent the spread of COVID-19 or other communicable diseases while protecting our communities from the threat of wildfire. The Oregon Health Authority will provide guidance and assist with mitigating the spread of COVID-19 at wildland fire facilities and camps, emergency shelters, and evacuation centers.
3. This determination of a wildfire emergency is statewide. It is not to be construed as a comprehensive declaration or proclamation of emergency for other purposes. It is limited to the use of state resources and personnel for fire management required by the emergency, to request assistance through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact if needed, and to allow state agencies to suspend provisions of any order or rule of the agency if strict compliance with the provisions of the order or rule would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay mitigating the effects of the wildfire emergency. Any local government requests for state resources must be submitted through county governing bodies to the Office of Emergency Management pursuant to ORS Chapter 401.
4. This order was made by verbal proclamation at 10:53 a.m. on the 19th day of August, 2020.
5. This order shall remain in effect until November 1, 2020, or until the threat is significantly relieved or the fire season ends, as determined by the Governor.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 20th day of August, 2020.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Brown".

Kate Brown
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bev Clarno".

Bev Clarno
SECRETARY OF STATE