



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR BOB FERGUSON

EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

26-03

Wildfires – Burn Ban

WHEREAS, the state of Washington is experiencing critically dry conditions and highly flammable wildfire fuels following prolonged periods of below-normal precipitation, above-normal temperatures, and persistent drought conditions across much of the state; and

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service has issued a Particularly Dangerous Situation (PDS) Red Flag Warning, effective between 11:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. on Saturday August 1, 2026, and is reserved only for the most rare and extreme fire weather conditions, across Central and Eastern Washington, indicating high risk of extreme fire behavior, very rapid-fire growth, and potential issues conducting safe evacuations; and

WHEREAS, preventing human-caused fires is the most immediate and effective action available to reduce wildfire risk while extreme fire conditions persist; and

WHEREAS, wildfires have already caused significant damage to lands, infrastructure, and homes, and the threat to life and property from wildfire remains significant and may cause more extensive damage to homes, businesses, public facilities, natural resources, agricultural lands, infrastructure, and utilities, which is a public disaster that affects life, health, property, and/or the public peace; and

WHEREAS, Washington state, Tribal, federal, and local fire suppression resources are actively engaged in responding to multiple significant wildfires, and additional large fire starts could exceed available firefighting capacity, requiring the prioritization of limited personnel, equipment, and aviation assets; and

WHEREAS, because available firefighting resources may not be adequate to address an outbreak of simultaneous large wildfires that are made more likely by the above-noted conditions, the Washington National Guard and State Guard may be needed to assist local jurisdictions and state agencies throughout the state of Washington with a public disaster and for the public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Military Department is currently monitoring and coordinating supporting actions through the State Emergency Operations Center, implementing emergency response procedures, and coordinating resources to support Tribal and local officials in alleviating the immediate impacts to people, property, and infrastructure,

and continuing to assess the wildfire danger resulting from existing high-risk weather and fire fuel conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), recognizing an unusual fire danger exists, has issued restrictions on outdoor burning (with certain limited exceptions), the use of charcoal briquettes, and prescribed burns on forest lands within the state of Washington under DNR jurisdiction, until further notice;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Ferguson, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the above-noted situation and under Chapters 38.52 and 43.06 RCW, do hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency exists throughout 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 in accordance with the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and to do everything reasonably possible to assist affected political subdivisions to respond to and recover from the dangerous wildfire conditions.

FURTHERMORE, under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(1)(h), to preserve and maintain life, health, property, or the public peace, I also hereby impose a temporary outdoor burn ban by prohibiting all outdoor and agricultural burning in all 39 Washington Counties until noon on Wednesday, September 30, 2026. The ban may be ended or extended if conditions warrant.

1. Except as provided in this proclamation, this outdoor burn ban includes but is not limited to campfires, bonfires, residential yard debris clean-up, trash disposal, land clearing, weed abatement, and agricultural burning activity.
2. This outdoor burn ban does not include the following activities:
 - use of liquid-fueled or gas-fueled stoves or grills over a non-flammable surface and at least five feet from flammable vegetation;
 - agricultural or silviculture burning pursuant to a fire permit issued by a local or state authority in accordance with existing statutes and rules; and
 - campfires at state, county and municipal parks and campgrounds, or small campfires contained in a structure (including fire rings) on private property, in accordance with current and ongoing restrictions imposed by the agency or property owner with legal authority over the park, campground, or property.

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 or fireworks permits issued by a local authority 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 firefighting plan.

ADDITIONALLY, as a result of the dangerous wildfire conditions, pursuant to RCW 38.08.040, I also hereby authorize members of the Washington National Guard and Washington State Guard to serve on temporary state active duty as needed to protect life, health, property, or the public peace from the hazards discussed above 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 event.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington on this 1st day of August A.D., two thousand and twenty-six at Seattle, Washington.

By:

/s/

Bob Ferguson
Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR

/s/

Secretary of State