



STATE OF WASHINGTON
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE —

EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

23-06

2023 Wildfires – Family Emergency Assistance

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2023, I issued Proclamation 23-05, proclaiming a state of emergency in all areas of the state of Washington because of abnormally hot and dry weather conditions, high risk fuel conditions, risk of severe and damaging wildfires, and the presence of multiple damaging wildfires in the state; and

WHEREAS, there continues to be multiple ongoing wildfires in Western, Central, and Eastern Washington, and significant wildfire potential is predicted to continue through the remainder of August, September, and October due to the high risk fuel conditions capable of producing additional significant wildfires which would require the need for additional immediate response in all areas of the state of Washington; and

WHEREAS, wildfires currently burning in Washington have burned more than 32,000 acres and have damaged and destroyed homes, businesses, agricultural resources, public and private infrastructure, and other essential community resources throughout Washington, affecting life, health, property, or the public peace, and are a public disaster demanding immediate action; and

WHEREAS, increased large wildfire activity in the Western United States has required the engagement of substantial firefighting resources which might limit the availability of needed resources if additional outbreaks of fires occur, creating a need to have all necessary firefighting resources readily available; and

WHEREAS, RCW 74.04.660(6) gives the Governor authority “during a state of emergency and pursuant to an order from the governor under this subsection,” to extend Family Emergency Assistance Program (FEAP) benefits to individuals and families without children; and

WHEREAS, RCW 74.04.660(6) also allows FEAP benefits for individuals and families to be issued for more than one period of time within any consecutive 12-month period; this authority is separate from, and in addition to, the authority established in RCW 43.06.220; and

WHEREAS, funding for Washington State’s disaster cash assistance program has been made available through September 29, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division is monitoring and coordinating supporting actions through the State Emergency Operations Center, implementing emergency response procedures, coordinating resources to support local officials in alleviating the immediate social and economic impacts to people, property, and infrastructure, and continuing to assess the wildfire danger resulting from existing high-risk weather and fire fuel conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the aforementioned situation and under Chapters 38.52 and 43.06 RCW, do hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency continues to exist in all areas of the state of Washington, that Proclamation 23-05 remains in effect, and that this Proclamation 23-06 implements the below listed provisions, and I again direct the plans and procedures in 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. My order into active state service of the Washington State organized militia also remains in effect. The Washington State Emergency Operations Center is instructed to continue monitoring the event and coordinating all event-related assistance to the affected areas.

FURTHERMORE, I hereby direct, order and authorize the Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services to extend Family Emergency Assistance Program benefits to individuals and families without children in the areas of Pend Oreille, Spokane, and Whitman counties affected by wildfire. I further order the Secretary to extend emergency assistance benefits to individuals and families who apply for and are eligible to receive benefits each month. This authorization and order for expansion is effective from August 31, 2023 until September 29, 2023.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington on this 31st day of August A.D., Two Thousand and Twenty-Three at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/

Jay Inslee, Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/

Secretary of State