

**Washington State Patrol
Media Release
Chief John R. Batiste**



**State Fire Marshal's Office
State Fire Marshal Charles P. LeBlanc**

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*** For Immediate Release ***

Date: June 4, 2018
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State Fire Mobilization Authorized for Les Blair Fire

State fire assistance has been mobilized under the Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan in support of local firefighters working to contain the Les Blair Fire, located approximately 8 miles south of Finley in Benton County. The Les Blair Fire is burning in grass and brush. Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste authorized the mobilization of state firefighting resources on June 4, 2018, at 4:45 pm at the request of Fire Chief Lonnie Click, Benton County Fire District 1.

The Les Blair Fire started on June 4, 2018. This fire is estimated at 250 acres, and is threatening agriculture, railroads and power infrastructure in the area. No evacuation orders are in effect at this time. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Mobilization specialists from the Fire Protection Bureau have ordered aircraft and hand crews. The fire will be managed by a Benton County Type 3 organization.

The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Camp Murray is activated to a Level 2 to coordinate state assistance for the Les Blair Fire. State Fire Marshal's Office personnel are en route the scene to coordinate dispatch of resources.

Under the State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan, the Fire Protection Bureau coordinates the initial dispatch and continued administrative oversight of resources and personnel for the duration of the incident. The Mobilization Plan is implemented to provide a process to quickly notify, assemble and deploy fire service personnel, equipment and other resources from around the state when fires, disasters or other events exceed the capacity of local jurisdictions. More information about the Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan is available at: www.wsp.wa.gov/fire/mobilization.htm.

The State Fire Marshal's Office is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State including inspections of state licensed facilities, plan review of school construction projects, licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington States firefighters, and collecting emergency response data.

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