

**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: September 1, 2018
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State Fire Mobilization Authorized for the Wagon Wheel Command 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 Wagon Wheel Command Fire, located in Benton County near Benton City. The Wagon Wheel Command Fire is burning in brush and grass. Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste authorized the mobilization of state firefighting resources on September 1, 2018, at 4:45 pm at the request of Fire Chief Ron Duncan, Benton County Fire District 2.

The Wagon Wheel Command Fire started on September 1, 2018, at approximately 2:12 pm. This fire is estimated at 400 acres and growing. It is threatening homes and infrastructure. Level 3 evacuations are in effect at this time. The fire cause is under investigation.

Mobilization specialists from the Fire Protection Bureau have ordered three wildland strike teams. The fire will be managed by a local Type 4 Incident Management Team.

The State Emergency Operations Center at Camp Murray is activated to Level 2 to coordinate state assistance for the Wagon Wheel Command Fire. State Fire Marshal's Office personnel are en route to 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: <http://www.wsp.wa.gov/draft-all-risk-mobilization/>.

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IT'S YOUR JOB!**