



Office of the Chief

Chief John R. Batiste
"Service with Humility"

*****For Immediate Release*****

Captain Neil Weaver
Government and Media Relations

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

Date: September 7, 2020

Contact: Deputy State Fire Marshal Amy Thornton

Phone: (360) 763-2103

Email: fpb-eoc@wsp.wa.gov

Twitter: @WaFireMarshal

State Fire Mobilization Authorized for the Pearl Hill/Cold Springs Fire

Okanogan County – State fire assistance has been mobilized under the Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan in support of local firefighters working to contain the Pearl Hill/Cold Springs Fire located in Okanogan County, near the city of Okanogan. The Pearl Hill/Cold Springs Fire is burning in timber, brush, and sage. Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste authorized the mobilization of state firefighting resources on September 7, 2020, at 6:45 am at the request of Fire Chief Ed Townsend, Okanogan County Fire District 8.

The Pearl Hill/Cold Springs Fire started on September 6, 2020, at approximately 9:50 pm. This fire is estimated at 8,000 acres and growing. It is threatening homes, crops, and power lines. Level 3 evacuations are in effect at this time. The fire cause is currently under investigation. Mobilization specialists from the Fire Protection Bureau have ordered five strike teams and air resources.

The State Emergency Operations Center at Camp Murray will remain activated to Level 1 to help coordinate state assistance for the Pearl Hill/Cold Springs 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 mobilization. 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/all-risk-mobilization/>.

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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