EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 07 – 09

PROCLAMATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO IMMINENT THREAT OF WILDFIRE

Pursuant to ORS 401.055, I find that the State of Oregon is in a critical fire danger situation. Many areas of the state are experiencing record high heat and widespread lightning strikes have occurred in recent days. The forecast calls for thunderstorms with lightning in many parts of the state and extreme drought conditions exist in several areas of Oregon. The extended forecast calls for above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation through the remainder of the summer. The imminent threat of wildfire exists statewide, including forests in coastal counties, the Cascades and eastern and southern Oregon. In fact, numerous wildfires are currently burning in the state. This threat is not likely to recede in the near future.

These conditions, in conjunction with the existing nationwide shortage of aviation resources available to fight fires, require a concerted and coordinated state response. In particular, it is critically important that National Guard resources be positioned to respond adequately and effectively to this dangerous and dynamic situation.

Therefore, subject to the limitations described below, I hereby declare a statewide State of Emergency due to the imminent threat of wildfire.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS DIRECTED AND ORDERED:

1. The Oregon Military Department, including its Office of Emergency Management, and the Oregon Department of Forestry are authorized to coordinate the use of National Guard personnel and equipment to perform any activity designed to prevent or alleviate damage from the emergency.

2. This statewide fire emergency declaration is limited to the use of National Guard resources for fire management. Any local government requests for state resources must be submitted through county governing bodies to the Office of Emergency Management pursuant to ORS Chapter 401. If the circumstances warrant a broader invocation of the state’s emergency management, additional declarations of emergency will be issued.

3. This order shall remain in effect until the threat is significantly relieved, the fire season ends, or I expressly rescind this Order.
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This order was made by verbal proclamation at 5:30 pm on the 11th day of July, 2007 and signed this 12th day of July, 2007 in Salem, Oregon.

Theodore R. Kulongoski
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Bill Bradbury
SECRETARY OF STATE