EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 11 – 11

PROCLAMATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO IMMINENT THREAT OF WILDFIRE

Pursuant to ORS 401.165, I find that the State of Oregon is in a critical fire danger situation. Much of the state is now in extreme fire danger and red flag warnings have been issued for hot, dry, windy conditions and thunderstorms. Other parts of the country continue to experience fires and similar fire weather. The extended forecast in Oregon calls for continued warm and dry conditions over many parts of the State. The imminent threat of wildfire exists over a broad area of the State including forests in the Cascades and eastern and southern Oregon. One fire on the Mt Hood National Forest now threatens the water supply of the City of Portland and critical electrical power infrastructure.

With the firefighting aircraft of the nation fully committed, unfilled orders for large helicopters on Oregon fires and the threat of more new ignitions in the near future, there is a need for immediate access to Oregon National Guard resources including firefighting helicopters. This threat is not likely to recede in the near future. It is critically important that National Guard resources can 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 through its Office of Emergency Management and the Oregon Department of Forestry are authorized to coordinate the use of personnel and equipment of the State for wildland firefighting in Oregon with National Guard resources.

2. This determination of a fire emergency is statewide. It is not to be construed as a comprehensive declaration or proclamation of emergency for other purposes. It is limited to the use of state resources and personnel for wildland firefighting. 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.
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3. This order shall remain in effect until the threat is significantly relieved or the fire season ends.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this ___ day of September, 2011.

[Signature]
John A. Kitzhaber, MD
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Kate Brown
SECRETARY OF STATE