EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 14-07

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. We have already experienced wildfires this season that resulted in evacuations and threatened hundreds of structures. Other parts of the country, including our neighboring states such as Washington and Idaho, continue to experience similar fires and weather. The extended forecast in Oregon calls for continued warm and dry conditions across the State, resulting in imminent threat of fire over a broad area of the State.

The Oregon Department of Forestry Incident Management Teams, along with National Interagency Teams are currently deployed in Oregon. Regional compacts are also being utilized for the deployment of specific wildland fire resources to Oregon. New and existing fire threats elevate the 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 be positioned to expedite resource requests and respond effectively to these dangerous and dynamic conditions.

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

IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED:

1. The Oregon Military Department through its Office of Emergency Management and the Oregon Department of Forestry is authorized to coordinate the use of personnel and equipment to perform any activity designed to prevent or mitigate loss of life or property due to wildfires in Oregon with National Guard resources. The National Guard will deploy and redeploy firefighting assets as needed throughout the remainder of the fire season based upon threat and resource shortfalls.

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 fire management required by the emergency. 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.
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 14-07
PAGE TWO

3. This order shall remain in effect until the threat is significantly relieved or the fire season ends.

4. This order was made by verbal proclamation at 2:40 pm on the 16th day of July, 2014.

Done at Portland, Oregon, this 5th day of August, 2014.

John A. Kitzhaber, MD
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Kate Brown
SECRETARY OF STATE