

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 23-23

INVOCATION OF EMERGENCY CONFLAGRATION ACT FOR THE BENSEL FIRE IN UMATILLA COUNTY

Pursuant to my authority as Governor of the State of Oregon, I find that:

The fire known as the "Bensel Fire" is burning in Umatilla County.

The resources necessary for protecting life and property from Bensel Fire are beyond local capabilities. Assistance with life, safety, and structural fire protection was requested by the Umatilla County Fire Defense Board Chief and the State Fire Marshal concurs with that request.

In accordance with ORS 476.510-476-610, I have determined that a threat to life, safety, and property exists due to the fires known as the Bensel Fire in Umatilla County and the threat exceeds the firefighting capabilities of local firefighting personnel and equipment. Accordingly, I have invoked the Emergency Conflagration Act.

These findings were made at 8:49 p.m. on September 3, 2023. The Oregon State Fire Marshal is mobilizing resources to the command of the local Fire Defense Board Chief for the Bensel Fire. The Green Incident Management Team will take command on the morning of September 4, 2023 of the Bensel Fire. I now confirm these findings with this Executive Order.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED:

1. The Oregon Fire Marshal shall mobilize fire resources statewide and coordinate with all appropriate Fire Defense Board Chiefs for the use of personnel and equipment in accordance with the Emergency Conflagration Act to suppress and contain this fire. Resources responding to the Bensel Fire may be redistributed by the State Fire Marshal.
2. This conflagration is declared only for the Bensel Fire threatening structures in Umatilla County.



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3. This order was made by verbal proclamation at 8:49 p.m. on September 3, 2023, and signed on September 5, 2023, in Salem, Oregon
4. This order is in effect as of this date and until which time the Office of State Fire Marshal has demobilized all OSFM resources off this incident.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 5th day of September 2023.

Tina Kotek
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

LaVonne Griffin-Valade
SECRETARY OF STATE