

JAY INSLEE
Governor



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**PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
AMENDING AND EXTENDING PROCLAMATIONS 20-68 and 20-72**

20-72.2

Wildfires – Temporary Assistance to Families

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2020, I issued Proclamation 20-68, proclaiming a State of Emergency for all counties throughout the state of Washington as a result of the impacts on the people of Washington of multiple wildfires that have occurred throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, there were a large number of wildfires throughout Washington State this fire season, caused in part by unusually hot and dry conditions this summer and exacerbated by a historic wind event in early September that brought high winds from the east to the west, and elevated temperatures and windy conditions throughout the State that continued through most of September; and

WHEREAS, in September alone, in excess of 640,000 acres of land burned, destroying hundreds of homes, businesses, agricultural interests, and public and private infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the effect of these fires continues to impact the life and health of our citizens, as well as the property and transportation infrastructure of Washington State and is a public disaster that affects life, health, property, or the public peace; and

WHEREAS, under RCW 74.04.660(6), during a state of emergency, the Governor is authorized to extend eligibility for benefits under the Family Emergency Assistance Program to individuals and families without children; and

WHEREAS, the property damage caused by the wildfires has caused economic hardship on individuals and families without children who usually would not be eligible for the Family Emergency Assistance Program in RCW 70.04.660; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the economic impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic on Washington State, many families have received benefits under the Family Emergency Assistance Program, established by the Department of Social and Health Services under RCW 74.04.660; and

WHEREAS, under RCW 74.04.660, households are only eligible for Family Emergency Assistance Program once in a 12-month period and therefore, households who already received Family Emergency Assistance Program for COVID-19 related issues would not be eligible for aid related to wildfires in the same 12-month period unless that statutory provision is waived; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of RCW 74.04.660 have already been extended to families without children in proclamations related to the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically Proclamations 20-18, 20-52, 20-65 and 20-66; and

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2020, I issued Emergency Proclamation 20-72, which clarified that the statutory waiver in RCW 74.04.660 is applicable to families with or without children who are suffering economic impacts from Washington's wildfires and also waived statutory language in RCW 74.04.660(2) limiting eligibility for aid to one period of time during a twelve-month period; and

WHEREAS, on October 2, 2020, in Emergency Proclamation 20-72.1, I extended the statewide wildfire state of emergency, 20-68, as well as the provisions of 20-72 through 11:59 p.m. on October 10, 2020; and

WHEREAS, although fire activity has diminished and there is no longer an emergency situation with respect to firefighting, the aftermath of the fires continues to impact the life and health of our citizens, as well as the property and transportation infrastructure of Washington State, and is a public disaster that affects life, health, property, or the public peace.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay R. Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the continuing impacts of the wildfires and under RCW 38.08, 38.52 and 43.06, do hereby proclaim that a state of emergency continues to exist in all 39 counties, and that the declaration of emergency in Proclamation 20-68 remains in effect as it relates to the continuing impacts of the wildfires, and that Proclamations 20-68 and 20-72 are hereby amended to extend them until 11:59 p.m. on November 9, 2020.

I again direct the plans and procedures of the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* be implemented. State agencies and departments are again directed to utilize state resources and to do everything reasonably possible to assist affected political subdivisions in an effort to respond to and recover from the event. My order into active state service of the Washington State organized militia also remains in effect. The

