

**Washington State Patrol
Media Release
Chief John R. Batiste**



**State Fire Marshal's Office
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***** For Immediate Release *****

Date: July 21, 2018
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State Fire Mobilization Authorized for the Locust Grove Fire

State fire assistance has been mobilized under the Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan in support of local firefighters working to contain the Locust Grove Fire, located in Benton County, near the city of Kennewick. The Locust Grove Fire is burning in wheat, grass, and brush. Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste authorized the mobilization of state firefighting resources on July 21, 2018, at 5:30 pm at the request of Chief Lonnie Click, Benton County Fire District 1.

The Locust Grove Fire started on July 21, 2018, at 11:58 am. This fire is estimated at 500 acres and growing. It is threatening homes, uncut wheat, powerlines, and roadways. Level 1 evacuations are in effect at this time. The fire cause is under investigation.

Mobilization specialists from the Fire Protection Bureau have ordered five wildland strike teams, one hand crew, and two helicopters. The fire will be managed by a Type 3 Incident Command Team.

The State Emergency Operations Center at Camp Murray is activated to Level 2 to coordinate state assistance for the Locust Grove Fire. State Fire Marshal's Office personnel are en route to the scene to coordinate dispatch of resources.

Under the State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan, the Fire Protection Bureau coordinates the initial dispatch and continued administrative oversight of resources and personnel for the duration of the incident. The Mobilization Plan is implemented to provide a process to quickly notify, assemble and deploy fire service personnel, equipment and other resources from around the state when fires, disasters or other events exceed the capacity of local jurisdictions. More information about the Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan is available at: <http://www.wsp.wa.gov/draft-all-risk-mobilization/>.

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IT'S YOUR JOB!**