



Office of the Chief

Chief John R. Batiste

“Service with Humility”

*****For Immediate Release*****

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State Fire Mobilization Authorized for the North Maple Fire

Cowlitz County – State fire assistance has been mobilized under the Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan in support of local firefighters working to contain the North Maple Fire, located in Cowlitz County near Kelso. The North Maple Fire is burning in timber, brush, grass, and slash. Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste authorized the mobilization of state firefighting resources on March 20, 2019, at 10:00 pm at the request of Fire Chief David LaFave, Cowlitz 2 Fire and Rescue.

The North Maple Fire started on March 20, 2019, at approximately 4:50 pm. This fire is estimated at 40 acres and growing. It is threatening homes, agriculture and infrastructure. Level 3 evacuations are in effect at this time. The fire cause is under investigation.

Mobilization specialists from the Fire Protection Bureau have ordered one wildland strike team and one helicopter. The fire will be managed by a local Type 3 Incident Management Team.

The State Emergency Operations Center at Camp Murray is activated to Level 2 to coordinate state assistance for the North Maple 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 mobilization. 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/>.

The State Fire Marshal's Office is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State including inspections of state licensed facilities, plan review of school construction projects, licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington States firefighters, and collecting emergency response data.

www.wsp.wa.gov/state-fire-marshals-office