



Office of the Chief

Chief John R. Batiste
"Service with Humility"

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

Captain Neil Weaver
Government and Media Relations

**State Fire Marshal's Office
Interim State Fire Marshal Chad Cross**

Date: August 1, 2022
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State Fire Mobilization Authorized for the Vantage Highway Fire

Kittitas County – State fire assistance has been mobilized under the Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan in support of local firefighters who are working to contain the Vantage Highway Fire located in Kittitas County, near Vantage. The Vantage Highway Fire is estimated at 5,000 acres and growing. Approximately 40 homes, windmill towers and infrastructure are threatened. Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste authorized the mobilization of state firefighting resources on August 1, 2022, at 3:15 p.m. at the request of Fire Chief William Rose, Kittitas County Fire District 4.

The Vantage Highway Fire started on August 1, 2022, at approximately 1:00 p.m. Level 2 evacuations are in effect at this time. The fire cause is currently under investigation.

The State Emergency Operations Center at Camp Murray remains activated to Level 2 to help coordinate state assistance for the Vantage Highway Fire. Mobilization specialists from the Fire Protection Bureau will assist local resources and mutual aid resources by providing strike teams. State Fire Marshal's Office personnel will be working remotely to coordinate the 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/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. These services include public education, licensing and certification of the fire sprinkler, fireworks, and cigarette industries, data collection and analysis, fire and life safety inspections for state facilities, plan review of school construction projects, all-risk mobilization of statewide fire service resources, hazardous materials training, and training and certification of firefighters.