



**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 4, 2022  
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**State Fire Mobilization Authorized for the Riparia Fire**

Whitman 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 Riparia Fire located in Whitman County, near the town of Central Ferry, WA. The Riparia Fire is estimated at 3,000 acres and growing. Homes, crops, railroad and critical infrastructure are threatened. Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste authorized the mobilization of state firefighting resources on August 4, 2022, at 10:00 p.m. at the request of Fire Chief JB Broeckel, Whitman County Fire District 8.

The Riparia Fire started on August 4, 2022, at approximately 4:30 p.m. Level 2 and 3 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 Riparia Fire. Mobilization specialists from the Fire Protection Bureau will assist local resources and mutual aid resources by providing four wildland 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.