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

July 24, 2026

Contact: **Deputy State Fire Marshal Amy Thornton**
Phone: (360) 763-2103
Email: fpb-eoc@wsp.wa.gov

State Fire Mobilization Authorized for the Locust Grove Fire

Benton 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 Locust Grove Fire located in Benton County, near Kennewick. Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste authorized the mobilization of state firefighting resources on July 24, 2026, at 12:30 a.m. at the request of Fire Chief Scott LoParco, Benton County Fire District 1.

The Locust Grove Fire started on July 23, 2026, at approximately 9:12 p.m. This fire is estimated at 750 acres and growing. It is burning in grass and brush, and is threatening homes, crops, and infrastructure. Level 2 and Level 3 evacuations are in effect at this time. The fire cause is currently under investigation.

The State Emergency Operations Center at Camp Murray is activated to Level 2, partial activation, to help coordinate state assistance for the Locust Grove Fire. Mobilization specialists from the Fire Protection Bureau have ordered two wildland strike teams and air resources to aid in containment efforts. State Fire Marshal's Office personnel are 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 the training and certification of firefighters.

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