



Washington Military Department Emergency Management Division



Wildland Fires in Washington

Chris Utzinger, Response Section Manager
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The Wildland Fire Threat

Washington has a long history of both small and very large fires. Some fires can reach 100,000 acres or more, which has occurred eight times since 1902. The state has experienced 34 fires of at least 2,500 acres on state-owned or protected land since 1992. The two most recent large fires were: the Carlton Complex Fire in 2014, the largest in state history, burning more than 255,164 acres, it destroyed over 350 homes and an estimated \$35 million in public infrastructure; and the Taylor Bridge in 2012, which burned 23,500 acres, destroyed 61 homes and 211 outbuildings.



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State EOC Activations - 2016

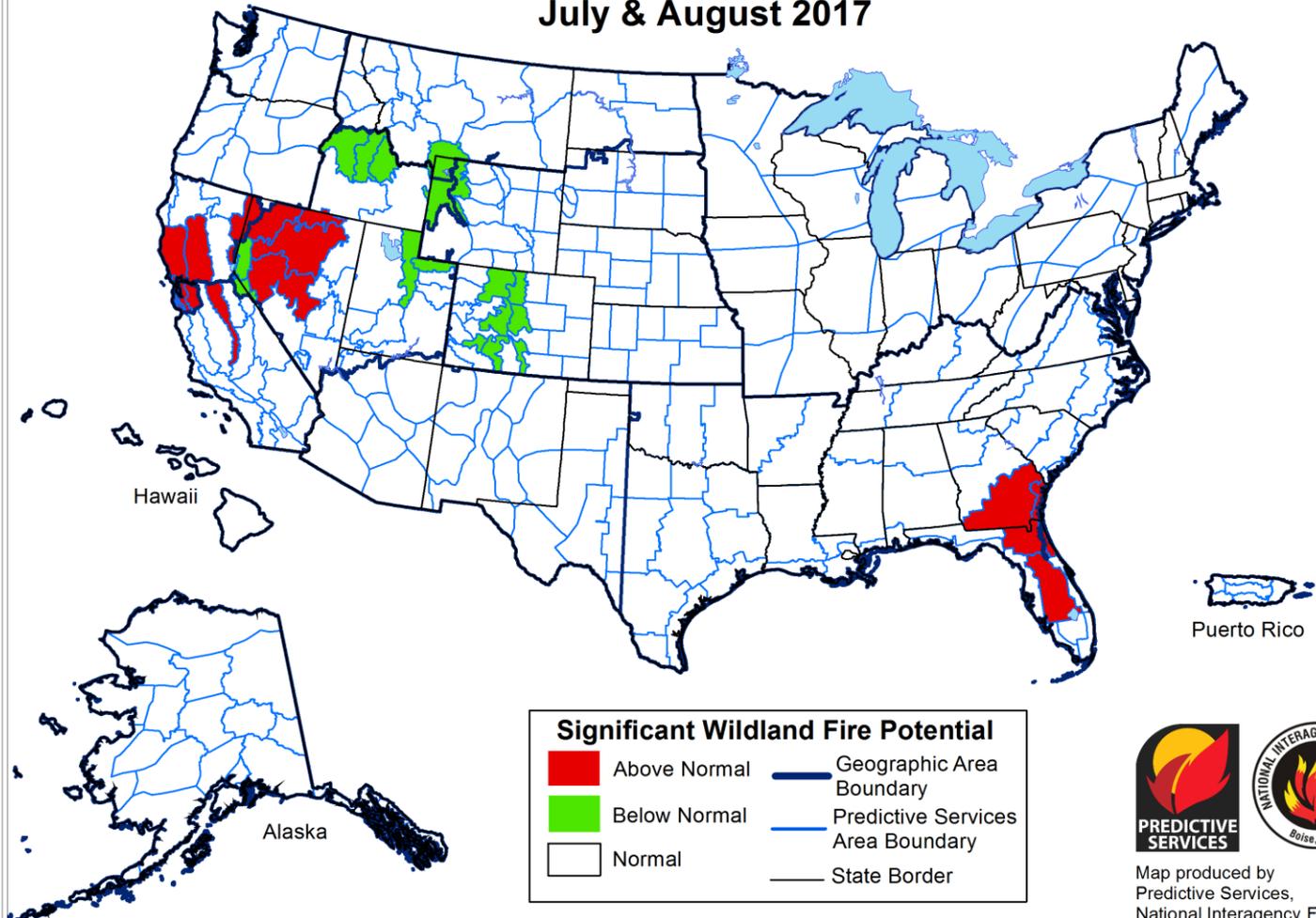
- 1,400+ classified fires
- 5 Level 2 (Partial) activations between May and August
- 1 Level 1 (Full) activation in August
- 4 Fire Management Assistance Declarations





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Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook July & August 2017



Above normal significant wildland fire potential indicates a greater than usual likelihood that significant wildland fires will occur. Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals during normal significant wildland fire potential conditions. Significant wildland fires are still possible but less likely than usual during forecasted below normal periods.



Map produced by
Predictive Services,
National Interagency Fire Center
Boise, Idaho
Issued May 1, 2017
Next issuance June 1, 2017



2017 Fire Outlook

The latest climate outlooks indicate no unusual extremes of either precipitation or temperature through June. However, given the trend of cool and wet conditions prevailing since December, this seems likely to continue for the Pacific Northwest through June with few periods of warm and dry weather. In July and August longer range projections suggest warmer-and-drier than typical weather coming to the Area. Current projections do not indicate an early arrival for fire season. However, if July and August turn out to be warmer and drier than typical, the region may see normal or even heavier-than-normal large fire activity late in fire season depending upon the amount of lightning received.



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Role of the State EOC

RCW 38.52.30 - The comprehensive emergency management plan shall direct the department in times of state emergency to administer and manage the state's emergency operations center. This will include representation from all state agencies and be available as single point of contact for authorizing state resources or actions.





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ESF 4 - Firefighting

- ❑ Washington State Patrol Fire Marshal's Office
- ❑ Department of Natural Resources
- ❑ United States Forest Service
- ❑ Bureau of Land Management
- ❑ National Park Service
- ❑ Bureau of Indian Affairs





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Wildland Fire Activities

- NWS Fire Season Briefings**
- Annual Wildfire Seminar**
- Situational Assessment**
 - Weekly Fire Conference Call between DNR, WSP, and MIL**
 - NWCC 7-Day Significant Fire Outlook**
 - NWCC Morning Brief**
 - Geospatial Tools**
- Keep elected officials informed**



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Alert & Warning Center

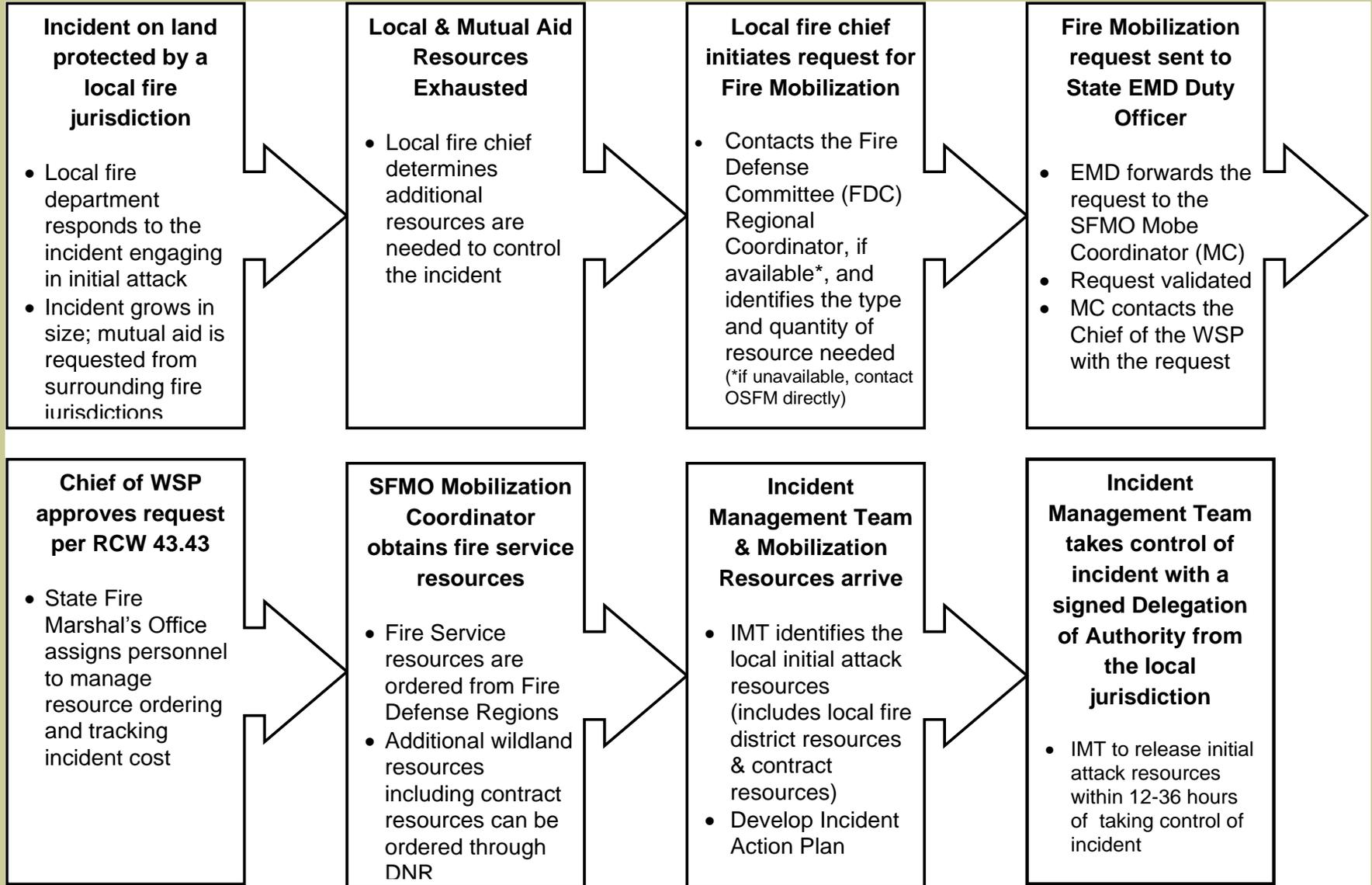
- ❑ State Fire Service Resource Mobilization (aka Fire Mob)
- ❑ DNR Fire Line during off hours
- ❑ Notification of FMAG staff





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State EOC Activation Levels

- Level 1 – Full Activation
- Level 2 – Partial Activation
- Level 3 – Monitoring





State EOC Activation Levels for Wildland Fires

- ❑ Partial, if response is limited to ESFs 4 and 15
- ❑ Full, if additional ESFs are needed
- ❑ In either case:
 - ❑ Most fire suppression related resources are managed directly by ESF 4 (DNR and WSP) outside of the State EOC
Exception: WA NG assets
 - ❑ WSP State Fire Marshal's Office sends ESF 4 staff to the State EOC





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Resource Requests

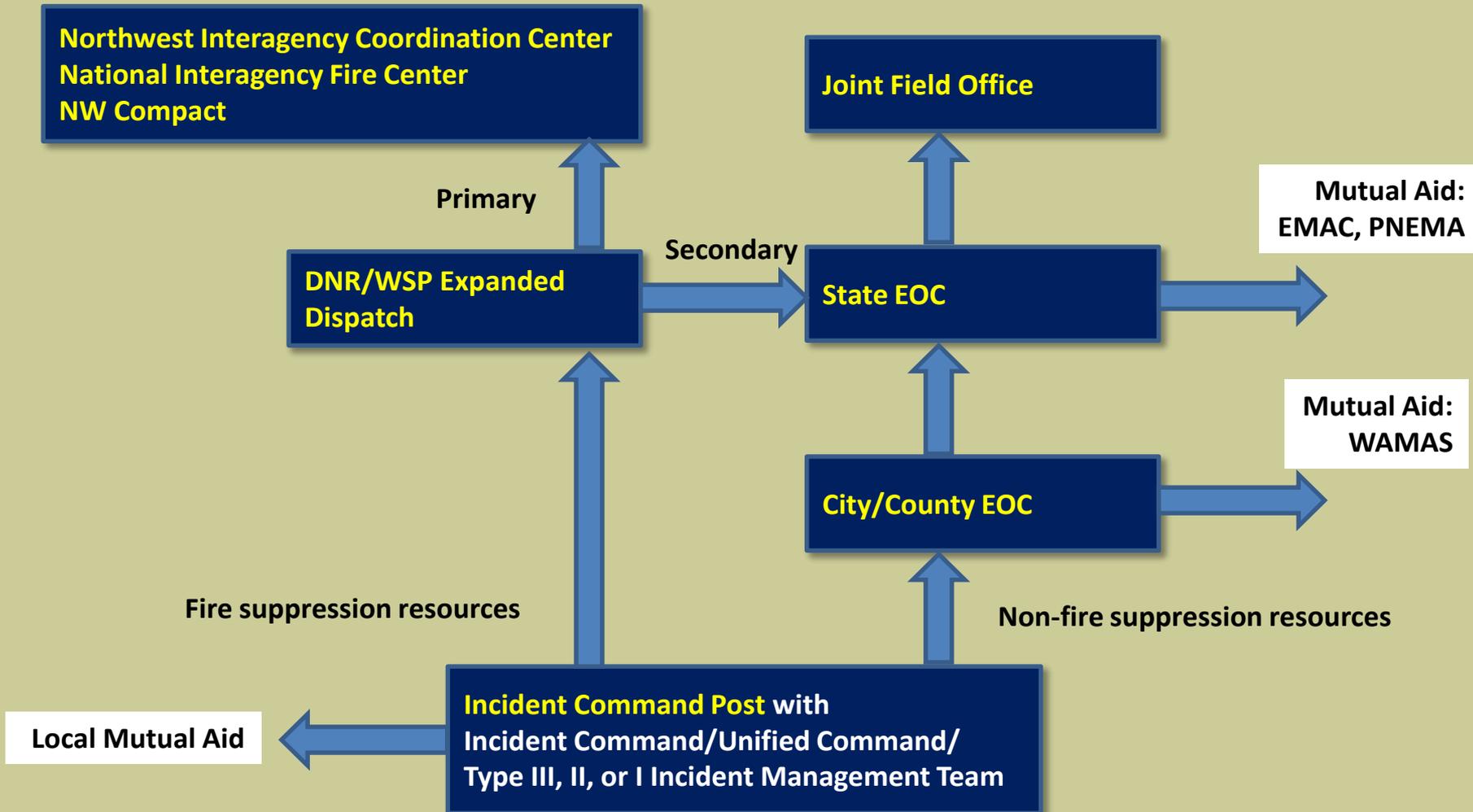
- ❑ Requests for fire suppression related resources originate from the Incident Commander
- ❑ Resource requests for other resources originate from/come through the local Emergency Manager
- ❑ ESF 4 may request additional resources through the State EOC, e.g. communications equipment, National Guard rotary wing assets





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Resource Ordering in Fires

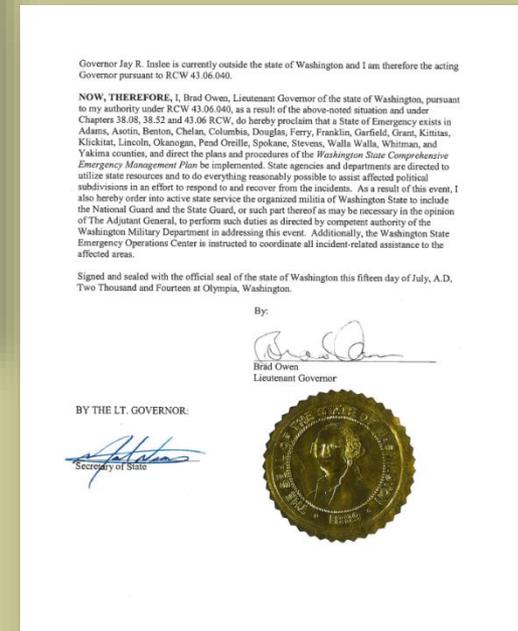
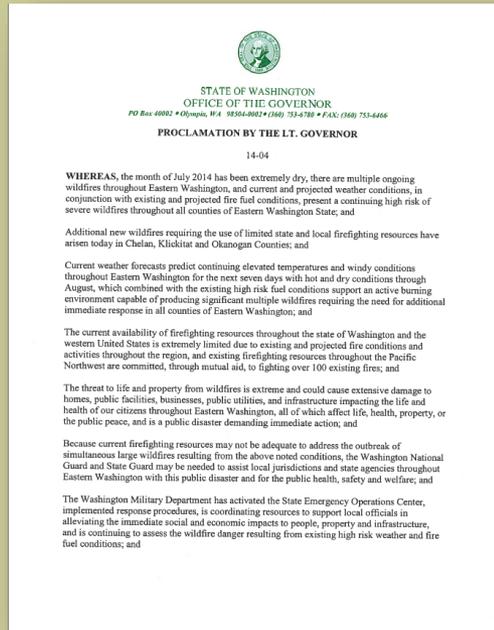




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Governor's Proclamation

1. Evaluate
2. Identify triggers
3. Prepare
4. Coordinate
5. Review
6. Issue





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Fire Lingo

- IMT – Incident Management Team
- NIFC – National Interagency Fire Center
- GACC – Geographic Area Coordination Center
- PL – Preparedness Level
- Mop-up
- Spotting
- NIMO – National Incident Management Organization
- NWCC – Northwest Interagency Coordination Center
- EGP – Enterprise Geospatial Portal
- NWCG - National Wildfire Coordinating Group
- Containment
- Crowning



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ESF-2 COMMUNICATIONS

Wildfire Mobilization Lessons Learned

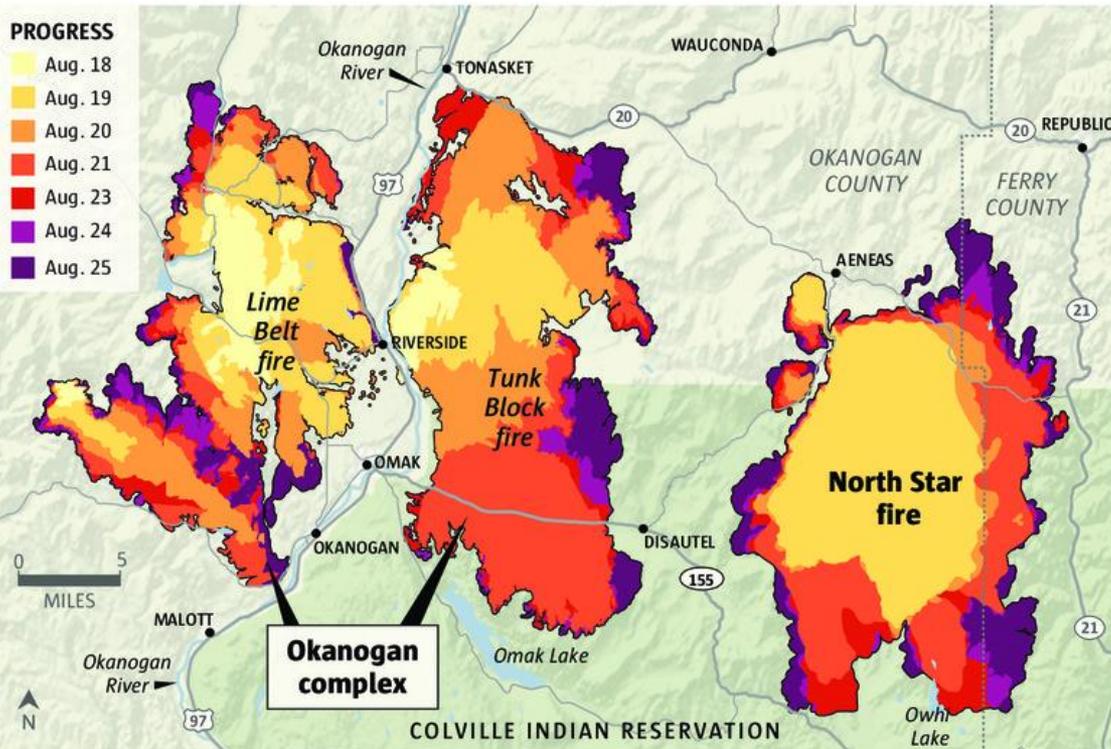
Roy Benavente - Telecommunications Coordinator
Washington Military Department



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ESF-2 Roles & Responsibilities

Okanogan complex, North Star fire grow closer, could merge



Sources: Esri, USGS GeoMAC

MARK NOWLIN and GARLAND POTTS / THE SEATTLE TIMES

- ❖ ESF-2 Overview
- ❖ SEOC Activation
- ❖ Incident Assessment
- ❖ Resource Identification
- ❖ Service Restoration
- ❖ Lessons Learned



ESF-2 Overview

ESF #2 coordinates state actions to assist public (government) and private (industry) sector entities in restoring the public communications infrastructure and to assist State, tribal, and local governments with emergency communications and restoration of public safety communications systems and first responder networks.

ESF #2 supports state departments and agencies in procuring and coordinating National Security and Emergency Preparedness (NS/EP) communications services.



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SEOC Activation



Devil's Elbow – Colville Indian Reservation 8/7/14

Initial notification of event is cause for SEOC activation.



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Incident Assessment



Assessments are conducted to determine the extent of damage to communications infrastructure.



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Incident Assessment



ESF-2 reach out to fiber, cable, radio, wireless, telephone and other service providers to determine the extent of damage.



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Resource Identification



Critical infrastructure is assessed to determine available services and vulnerabilities.



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Service Restoration



**Public Safety first responder (fire, law enforcement, medical, etc.)
service restoration is the first priority... with others prioritized accordingly.**



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Lessons Learned



ESF-2 Partners... WE CAN'T DO IT ALONE!