
For immediate release

Contact: Melissa Gannie, Washington State Patrol, 253-912-4932
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**Fire Mobilization Ordered for the
Cowiche Mill Fire**

State fire assistance has been mobilized to support local firefighters working to contain the Cowiche Mill Fire East of Yakima in Yakima County. Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste authorized the mobilization of state firefighting resources on July 18, 2010, at 4:15 p.m. at the request of Yakima County Fire District #12.

The fire started at 1:54 p.m. on July 18, 2010. The cause of the fire is unknown at this time. The fire has grown to an estimated 8,000 acres. There are approximately 150 residences threatened by the fire with mandatory evacuations put into place. Approximately 200 people have been evacuated from the area.

Mobilization specialists from the Fire Protection Bureau have ordered six strike teams of wildland engines (30 engines, 7 water tenders), one strike team of structural engines (5 engines), a Type 3 Incident Management Team, two helicopters, and 2 air tankers with retardant to supplement the resources already fighting the fire.

The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Camp Murray has been activated to Phase II, to coordinate state assistance for the Cowiche Mill Fire. Personnel from the Fire Protection Bureau will be on scene to coordinate dispatch of resources and other personnel will staff the State EOC.

Under the mobilization plan, the Fire Protection Bureau coordinates the initial dispatch of firefighters, engines, water tenders, and helicopters. The Washington State Fire Services Mobilization Plan is implemented to provide personnel, equipment and other resources from around the state when wildfires exceed the firefighting capacity of local jurisdictions. More information about the Washington State Fire Services Mobilization Plan is available at:
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov/fire/mobilization.htm>

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