

**STATE OF MONTANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 8-2026**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER DECLARING A DISASTER TO EXIST IN SUPPORT OF THE
STATE OF WASHINGTON, WARRANTING SUPPORT FROM THE STATE OF
MONTANA**

WHEREAS, the State of Washington is dealing with significant wildfire conditions in many parts of the state with the City of Spokane particularly hard hit by devastating fires that have burned over 10,000 acres, destroyed over 700 structures and displaced an estimated 65,000 people; and

WHEREAS, as of August 7, 2026, the National Preparedness Level is Preparedness Level-5, which is the highest level of wildland fire activity and national resource commitment in the United States and means multiple large, complex fires are burning and national firefighting resources are nearly fully exhausted; and

WHEREAS, Washington is requesting support from the Montana National Guard in responding to the ongoing wildland fire crisis it is facing; and

WHEREAS, the State of Montana is a member of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact ("EMAC"), pursuant to Montana Code Annotated Title 10, Chapter 3, Part 10, through which Montana can provide mutual assistance to member states in order to respond to disasters that over-extend the ability of those other member states to reduce, counteract, or remove the danger; and

WHEREAS, these conditions warrant the governor to mobilize state resources, including but not limited to the Montana National Guard, under the terms and conditions of EMAC to meet the needs of the impacted member states; and

WHEREAS, the governor has broad statutory authority under Montana Code Annotated, Title 10, Chapter 3, to mobilize state resources in the event of a disaster; and

WHEREAS, as of August 7, 2026, the State of Montana is experiencing moderate fire activity and has adequate resources to manage current incidents across the state; and

WHEREAS, should a situation arise within the State of Montana where deployed resources are needed to protect lives and/or property, Montana retains the right to recall those resources to manage such incidents;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GREG GIANFORTE, Governor of the State of Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, do hereby declare that a disaster exists due to wildland fire conditions, warranting the State of Montana's support to the State of Washington.

This Order is effective August 7, 2026, and will end on September 21, 2026.



GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana this 7th day of August, 2026.



GREG GIANFORTE, Governor

ATTEST:



CHRISTI JACOBSEN, Secretary of State