

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

DUE TO A WILDFIRE EMERGENCY

Resolution No.: 2020-09-10

WHEREAS, on, September 7, 2020, a severe wind event started throughout the western portions of Washington, Oregon and Northern California, including Clark County, prompting Red Flag warnings for winds and extremely low relative humidity resulting in critical fire/weather conditions favorable for rapid fire spread which may threaten life and property.

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2020, the Red Flag warnings and wind event continued and a wildfire named the Big Hollow Fire started above the upper Wind River drainage of Skamania County and quickly spread up the Siouxon Creek drainage toward Clark County, covering an estimated 10,000 acres and continued to grow rapidly towards Clark County.

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2020, the wind event, Red Flag warnings and critical fire weather continues, and the fire continues to exhibit extreme fire behavior and is advancing towards Clark County, and fire officials believe the fire is likely to cross into Clark County.

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2020 firefighting resources throughout the nation, and region are not readily available due to major fires in Washington, Oregon and Northern California and considering that fires just to the south in Oregon are prompting mass evacuations due to extreme fire behavior.

WHEREAS, with the current conditions, any uncontrolled wildfire is likely to cause an immediate threat to the health, safety and welfare of our residents and their property including homes, businesses, livestock and pets.

WHEREAS, the current conditions in other jurisdictions in the region are requiring evacuations into Clark County.

WHEREAS, the current air quality is extremely dangerous due to the smoke in Clark County and jurisdictions in the region.

WHEREAS, the conditions stated above constitute an emergency for the County, necessitating activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Clark County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and the utilization of emergency powers granted pursuant to Clark County Code Chapter 2.48A, RCW 38.52.070(2), and 38.52.110(1);

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Chapter 38.52 RCW and County Code Chapter 2.48A, the County Council does resolve as follows:

Section 1. Pursuant to Clark County Code 2.48A.070, the Chair of the County Council declares there is an emergency that requires immediate measures to protect the health, safety and welfare of Clark County residents, which may include, but not limited to, individuals and livestock from other jurisdictions in the region.

Section 2. There is hereby declared an emergency, as defined in the Clark County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (PLAN), due to the threat of fires in Clark County.


Section 3. Pursuant to the emergency declared at Section 1, County departments and offices, as designated pursuant to the PLAN, are authorized to enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to combat such emergency to protect the health and safety of the residents of the County and other jurisdictions, and provide emergency assistance to the victims of such emergency, consistent with the PLAN.

Section 4. Pursuant to the emergency declared at Section 1, the County Manager is delegated all necessary authority under Clark County Code 2.48A.090 to issue orders detailed under Clark County Code 2.48A.090(1) in order to preserve the health, safety and welfare of our citizens and their property including homes, businesses, livestock and pets;

Section 5. The County will pursue any and all available financial resources that can be used to protect and promote the public health, safety and welfare from threats of smoke and fire.

Section 6. The declaration of a local emergency set forth at Section 1 shall terminate at midnight (first Wednesday following the 30th day after the date this resolution is adopted) unless extended or limited by the County Council.

ADOPTED this 11th day of September 2020.



Eileen Quiring O'Brien
Clark County Chair

Approved as to Form Only
ANTHONY F. GOLIK
Prosecuting Attorney

/s/ Emily A. Sheldrick

Emily A. Sheldrick
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney