



EXECUTIVE ORDER 15-17

PROCLAMATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY REGARDING EFFECTS OF WILDFIRE AND DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND ADMINISTRATIVE RULES THAT PREVENT, HINDER OR DELAY MITIGATION OF THE EFFECTS OF WILDFIRES

Pursuant to ORS 401.165, I find that a state of emergency exists in areas of the State ravaged by wildfires with respect to the removal of debris, disposal efforts and septic systems of repairs.

I have previously invoked the Emergency Conflagration Act for the following counties:

On July 30, 2015, I issued Executive Order 15-12 for the Stouts Creek Fire in Douglas County;

On August 13, 2015, I issued Executive Order 15-13 for the Cornet and Windy Ridge fires in Baker County;

On August 14, 2015, I issued Executive Order 15-14 for the Canyon Creek Complex fire in Grant County;

On August 20, 2015, I issued Executive Order 15-15 for the Grizzly Bear Complex fire in Wallowa County; and,

On August 25, 2015, I issued Executive Order 15-16 proclaiming a state of emergency due to imminent threat of wildfire in Oregon.

In consultation with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), I have determined that debris removal and disposal efforts and septic system repairs or replacements in the above-described counties affected by wildfires are being inhibited by certain DEQ permitting requirements, and that this inhibition has occasioned a state of emergency in these counties. Based on the information I have received from DEQ and Oregon Emergency Management, and in accordance with my authority under ORS 401.168(2), I find that strict compliance with certain DEQ rules would prevent, hinder or delay mitigation of the effects of this emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED:

1. Pursuant to ORS 401.035, I delegate to the Director of DEQ the authority conferred under ORS 401.168(2) to issue emergency orders

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that temporarily suspend such DEQ rules as the Director determines to be necessary in order to make possible or to expedite DEQ-approved operations in response to the wildfire damage in the above-named counties, and to protect public health, safety and the environment during those operations.

The Director of DEQ shall consult with the Governor's Natural Resources Office prior to issuing any order temporarily suspending a DEQ rule pursuant to the authority provided in this Executive Order. The Director of DEQ shall provide a written report to the Governor's Natural Resources Office and to the Environmental Quality Commission concerning the nature and basis of any emergency order issued pursuant to this Executive Order.

The authority delegated by this Executive Order will automatically terminate January 1, 2017, unless otherwise extended or terminated by supplemental order.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 10th day of September, 2015.

Handwritten signature of Kate Brown in black ink.

Kate Brown
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of Jeanne P. Atkins in blue ink.

Jeanne P. Atkins
SECRETARY OF STATE

