



OFFICE OF MAYOR  
TED WHEELER

## City of Portland

IN THE MATTER OF THE )  
LOCAL EMERGENCY )       **Emergency Declaration Due to**  
WITHIN THE CITY OF PORTLAND )       **Extreme Threat of Fire**  
DECLARED ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 )

**WHEREAS**, the State of Oregon is experiencing extreme wildfire conditions threatening lives and property, including wildfire threats to the city of Portland and the greater Portland metropolitan area; and

**WHEREAS**, exceedingly dry conditions, coupled with low humidity, high winds, and other hazardous weather conditions, create an imminent risk of wildfires starting and spreading rapidly within the city; and

**WHEREAS**, smoke from nearby fires has caused widespread unhealthy air quality conditions throughout the city; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Portland has limited firefighting resources available to combat widespread wildfires throughout the city, and many of the Portland Fire Bureau's resources are currently deployed to assist with firefighting efforts in other parts of the state; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 19, 2020, the Governor of Oregon, Kate Brown, declared a statewide State of Emergency due to the imminent threat of wildfire, and on September 8, 2020, issued Executive Order No. 20-41 to invoke the Emergency Conflagration Act statewide due to the extreme fire danger from hot, dry, and windy conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Portland must marshal any and all available resources to confront the immediate and extreme threats posed by wildfires to the city and its inhabitants.

**THEREFORE**, pursuant to my authority under the Portland City Charter, City Code, and any other applicable law, I hereby Order as follows:

1. **State of Emergency.** A State of Emergency exists within the City of Portland under Portland City Code Section 15.04.
2. **Closure of City-Owned Outdoor Properties.** All outdoor parks and natural areas owned by the City of Portland, **including all forested parks**, and other locations as designated by the Director of the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management, are hereby closed to the general public except as may be necessary for the City to respond to the impacts of fire danger under this Emergency Declaration, or to respond to any other threats to the public, health, safety or welfare under any and all other Emergency Declarations in effect in the City.
3. **Protecting the City's Houseless Population.** As deemed appropriate to protect the public's health, safety and welfare, and prevent wildfires, and notwithstanding any other requirement imposed by law or otherwise, the Director of the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management, or their designee, shall direct members of the public experiencing houselessness to relocate as quickly as possible to safer areas within the city to reduce the risk of fire and promote the safety of houseless individuals and their property.
4. **Evacuation Sites for Fire Victims.** As deemed appropriate by the Director of the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management, the City shall activate evacuation sites for fire victims, or those displaced by the threat of fires throughout the city, state, and region.
5. **Financial Resources.** The Director of the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management, or their designee, is hereby directed to pursue any and all available financial resources from any lawful source whatsoever that may be used to protect and promote the public health, safety and welfare from the threats of smoke and fire, prevent property damage, and otherwise respond to the threats giving rise to this Emergency Declaration.
6. **Other Provisions.**
  - a. In addition to any other power that may lawfully be exercised by local government, the powers listed in PCC 15.08.020.B are vested in the Mayor.
  - b. For the duration of this emergency, unless otherwise specified by the Mayor, the current bureau assignments to the members of the City Council shall remain in effect as delegated authority under PCC 15.08.020.A.
  - c. This State of Emergency shall remain in effect through noon on Thursday September 24, 2020, unless otherwise extended, modified, or terminated.

- d. If any provision of this Declaration of Emergency, or any Emergency Orders, directives, commands, or other orders issued under the authority of the Declaration, or their application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, then the remainder of the duly exercised authority, including the application of such part or provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of the Declaration of Emergency, or any Emergency Orders, directives, commands, or other orders issued under the authority of the Declaration, are severable.

**IT IS SO ORDERED:**

**Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020**

**City of Portland, Oregon**

By: 

**Ted Wheeler, Mayor**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

Tracy Reeve, City Attorney  
For Portland, Oregon