
HOUSE BILL 2070

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representative Kretz

Read first time 02/10/15. Referred to Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources.

1 AN ACT Relating to forest fire suppression; creating a new
2 section; providing an expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The department of natural resources
5 must conduct a comprehensive analysis of wildfire suppression
6 protocol in Washington and develop a set of deliverables for the
7 department to implement that builds upon existing policies and
8 protocols, and recent department fire suppression experiences, to
9 increase suppression response effectiveness.

10 (2) The analysis required in this section must consider all
11 aspects of fire suppression and response, including:

12 (a) Dispatch protocols and dispatcher knowledge of local
13 resources;

14 (b) Protocols for when to elevate a fire to a higher level
15 incident management team;

16 (c) Initial attacks to keep fires small;

17 (d) Utilization of local fire response resources;

18 (e) Maximizing the effectiveness of using smokejumpers as an
19 initial attack;

20 (f) Minimization of indecision in producing orders;

21 (g) Policies for entering or crossing over public lands;

- 1 (h) Consistency of incident command between shifts and personnel
2 changes;
- 3 (i) Openness of communication channels;
- 4 (j) The preincident development of local emergency response
5 plans;
- 6 (k) Response training and drills;
- 7 (l) Prepositioning resources in fire-prone communities;
- 8 (m) Interagency agreements with partner agencies;
- 9 (n) Protecting local suppression resources from being dispatched
10 to other jurisdictions; and
- 11 (o) Managing firefighter fatigue without jeopardizing response.
- 12 (3) The department of natural resources must, as part of the
13 analysis required under this section, identify a set of deliverables
14 and a plan for achieving the deliverables.
- 15 (4)(a) An initial analysis must be reported to the legislature,
16 consistent with RCW 43.01.036, by June 1, 2015. A final analysis must
17 be completed and reported by December 31, 2015.
- 18 (b) A follow-up to the analysis must be reported to the
19 legislature, consistent with RCW 43.01.036, by December 31, 2016,
20 that outlines the success of the department of natural resources in
21 achieving the deliverables included in the final report.
- 22 (5) This section expires July 1, 2017.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate
24 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
25 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
26 effect immediately.

--- END ---