

**DECLARATION OF A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY IN  
THE CITY OF HOOD RIVER AS A RESULT OF EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS**

The City Manager of the City of Hood River finds that:

- A. There are existing conditions resulting in the need for a local emergency declaration.
- B. Temperatures in the City of Hood River have registered over 90 degrees Fahrenheit for the past 4 days, and is expected to reach 90 degrees on Tuesday, July 4.
- C. Precipitation in the Hood River area is currently less than 70% of average year to date.
- D. On Sunday July 2, a wildfire ignited near Underwood, Washington, which has grown to more than 500 acres.
- E. As of June 11, 2023, all outdoor burning has been prohibited with a total burn ban for Hood River County in effect.
- F. Consumer fireworks is a leading cause of wildfires in Oregon and Washington when conditions are hot and dry – circumstances that occur with increasing frequency as global climate and regional weather conditions grow hotter, and which currently exist in the Hood River area.
- G. Hood River Municipal Code 9.36.025 limits the discharge of consumer fireworks to certain time periods and prohibits consumer fireworks during any period in which there is a fire emergency or burn ban declared to be in effect.
- H. Early July is typically an extremely busy period for Hood River Fire & EMS as summer weather conditions grow hot and dry and there is a peak in the use of consumer fireworks. Mitigating the risk of fires caused by the use of fireworks will allow the Department to prioritize other public safety needs.
- I. According to the National Fire Protection Association, fireworks cause over 19,000 fires per year and require emergency room treatment for over 9,000 people in the United States each year.
- J. Pursuant to ORS 401.309(1), the governing body of a city may declare, by ordinance or resolution that a state of emergency exists within the city.
- K. Hood River Municipal Code 2.48.050 authorizes the City Manager to declare an emergency based on, among other things, a natural or manmade public health hazard, and the authority to “Authorize extraordinary measures.”

**Now, therefore,** based on the foregoing findings, which are incorporated herein by this reference, I hereby Order that:

- 1. A Local State of Emergency is declared to exist throughout the City of Hood River.

2. To respond to the crisis, the City may relax, adjust, or waive any requirements, standards, criteria, or application of the Hood River Municipal Code, Hood River Development Code, or other regulations for the purpose of addressing the public health emergency caused by this extreme heat. Any such changes or decisions will be temporary in nature for so long as necessary to respond to this emergency.
3. To preserve limited public safety resources and to protect life and property, and to prioritize Hood River Fire & EMS's ability to meet public safety needs, including those related to the extreme weather conditions, use of any and all fireworks as defined by ORS 480.111 within the City of Hood River during this emergency is strictly prohibited. Violation of this order will be subject to a Class A civil infraction and any other civil and/or criminal penalties, sanctions, and liability allowed by law. For purposes of this section, "use" includes lighting, exploding, or igniting in any way. Fireworks displays approved by Hood River Fire & EMS and the Oregon State Fire Marshall are exempt from this restriction. Use of fireworks that are illegal under state law continues to be prohibited at all times.
4. The City may take any other actions within its authority for the protection of safety, health, life, or property during this emergency.
5. The City will take all necessary steps authorized by law to coordinate the response and recovery of this emergency, including but not limited to, requesting assistance from the State of Oregon, Hood River County, and any other near-by emergency response agency.
6. This Declaration of a Local State of Emergency is effective immediately and will remain in effect until 11:59 p.m. July 14, 2023. It may be amended, modified, supplemented, and/or extended in additional increments so long as conditions continue to pose an ongoing, immediate, and substantial threat to life, safety, health, or property in the City of Hood River.

Dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2023



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Abigail Elder, City Manager

Subject to ratification by the City Council on July 10, 2023