STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Home and Community Living Administration
Residential Care Services • P.O. Box 45600 • Olympia, Washington 98504

August 20, 2026
Amended 09/10/2026

HCLA: AFH #2026-033
HCLA: ALF #2026-033
HCLA: CCRSS #2026-017
HCLA: ICF/IID #2026-011
HCLA: NH #2026-032

Emergency Proclamations by the Governor 26-03, 26-03.1, and 26-03.2

Dear Provider/Administrator/Superintendent:

Fires in Eastern Washington began on Aug. 1, 2026, and continue to burn due with high-risk weather conditions. To date, 700,000 acres have burned, including at least 871 homes and other structures. This has resulted in evacuations and hundreds of displaced residents/clients and staff from adult family homes, assisted living facilities, a nursing home, and certified community residential services and supports.

On Aug. 1, 2026, Governor Ferguson issued Emergency Proclamation 26-03 Wildfires-Burn Ban. This proclamation recognized that the high risk of extreme fire behavior impacted the health and safety of residents of Eastern Washington and declared a State of Emergency, directing the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan be implemented.

On Aug. 10, 2026, Governor Ferguson issued Emergency Proclamation 26-03.1 Wildfires-Immediate Relief and Response. This proclamation declared under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220(2)(g), recognizes the state of emergency and the impact it has to business's daily operations and compliance with regulatory obligations. The Governor is waving statutory and regulatory provisions for 30 days from the date of the Proclamation, to support displaced residents in adult family homes and assisted living facilities in the following counties: *Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Okanogan, Spokane, Stevens, and Yakima Counties and lands of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, and Spokane Tribe of Indians*.

On August 31, 2026, Governor Ferguson issued Emergency Proclamation 26-03.2 Wildfires – State Individual Assistance Expansion, Family Emergency Assistance Program, and Ongoing Recovery Support. This version amends Proclamations 26-03 and 26-03.1. This emergency proclamation has expanded the counties affected, listing the following additional counties eligible for emergency relief: *Benton, Columbia, Grant, Kittitas, and Whitman.* In addition, the expiration date of the emergency proclamation has been extended to September 30, 2026, with some parts extended 60 days after the date of the Proclamation.

Please read the proclamations within this official document to learn areas helpful to you, your staff and residents. Information on long-term care facilities found in **Proclamation 26-03.1** starts on page 11:

Waiving Provisions to Support Displaced Residents of Adult Family Homes	
RCW 70.128.010(1) Definitions	The following language only: "more than one but not more than six adults" and "An adult family home may provide services up to eight adults upon approval from the department under RCW 70.128.066."
RCW 70.128.060(11)(a)(ii) License	The following language only: "the department shall charge the licensee a nonrefundable fee to increase bed capacity at the adult family home to seven or eight beds"
RCW 70.128.066 Seven or eight bed adult family homes-Requirements-Licensure.	In its entirety
WAC 388-76-10030 Adult family home capacity	In its entirety
WAC 388-76-10031 License requirements-Seven or eight bed adult family home adult family homes.	In its entirety
WAC 388-76-10055(4) Application	In its entirety
WAC 388-76-10330(1) Resident assessment	The following language only: "before admitting a resident to the home"
WAC 388-76-10395(3) Emergency admissions	In its entirety
WAC 388-76-10530(1) Resident rights, notice of rights and services.	The following language only: "and before the resident is admitted to the home"

Waiving Provisions to Support Displaced Residents of Assisted Living Facilities	
RCW 18.20.350(2) Preadmission assessment.	The following language only: "If there is an emergency admission, the preadmission assessment shall be completed within five days of the date of admission."
WAC 388-78A-2070(2) Timing of preadmission assessment.	In its entirety
WAC 388-78A-2730(2)(a) Licensee's responsibilities.	In its entirety
WAC 388-78A-2870 Vacant buildings.	In its entirety

The Proclamation does not address **nursing homes** because of the federal regulatory requirements that the State does not have the authority to waive. RCS has applied and was approved for a Federal 1135 Waiver for facilities affected by the wildfires. Emergency

rulemaking is currently underway. A separate Provider Letter will be issued for nursing homes once those rules are finalized and filed.

The Proclamation does not address clients of certified community residential services and supports (CCRSS) at this time.

RCS is currently considering emergency rules that align with the waived provisions in this letter. Providers will be notified if and when that occurs.

If you have questions about this letter, please contact your local Field Manager for assistance. Links: Region 1 Offices, Region 2 Offices, and Region 3 Offices.
Many individuals we serve have been impacted by wildfires. We are grateful for the numerous services the community and agency have to offer individuals as they recover.

For questions related to the waived provisions and Federal 1135 Waiver, please contact the RCS Policy Unit at RCSPolicy@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Amy Abbot, Director
Residential Care Services
DSHS: *"Partnering with People"*