



**SUPERIOR and DISTRICT COURTS OF  
WASHINGTON  
COUNTY OF SPOKANE  
And  
MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE CITY OF  
SPOKANE**

IN THE MATTER OF EMERGENCY COURT  
OPERATIONS DUE TO THE SPOKANE COMPLEX  
FIRE

**EMERGENCY ORDER**

**No. 2026-01**

Regarding Wildfire State of Emergency:  
SPOKANE COMPLEX FIRE  
DATED 08/02/2026

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Washington has declared a statewide wildfire emergency and burn ban due to extreme wildfires and community impact; and

WHEREAS, The Commissioners of Spokane County also declared a state of emergency in Spokane County due to active ongoing fires in Spokane County hereinafter referred to as the Spokane Complex fire; and

WHEREAS, The Mayor of the City of Spokane also declared a state of emergency in the City of Spokane due to active ongoing fires in the City of Spokane hereinafter referred to as the Spokane Complex fire, and

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of individuals and families have been displaced, and evacuated from dense urban areas within the city and the county; current reports indicate roughly 700 structures have been lost;

WHEREAS, up to 40,000 residents of Spokane County were without power or are currently without power as emergency crews attack the fires;

WHEREAS, in light of the current declarations of emergency actively ongoing in Spokane County and at the statewide level, a continuance of civil and criminal matters set before the court on Monday August 3, 2026 and Tuesday August 4, 2026 is necessary in the interest of justice. The Spokane Complex is a natural disaster and constitutes an unavoidable and unforeseen circumstance that is beyond the control of the court and any litigant or participant in a court proceeding;

WHEREAS, GR 21 permits Courts to alter court operations for reasons to include hazardous or emergency conditions that affect the safety and welfare of employees or affect the courts ability to operate.

## **ORDER**

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

### **1. Criminal Jury Trials**

a) It is necessary to suspend jury summons for reasons under the current emergency. The jury personnel for Spokane County Superior Court, Spokane County District Court, and City of Spokane Municipal Court shall call off jurors summoned immediately. Jurors summoned for trials set for August 3, 2026, are excused. The Court will conduct no criminal jury trials until at least August 10, 2026.

b) For all pending Spokane County Superior Court, Spokane County District Court, and City of Spokane Municipal Court, criminal cases, under CrR 3.3 and CrRLJ 3.3, it is the Court's obligation to ensure compliance with the applicable time for trial rules.

c) Spokane County Superior Court, Spokane County District Court, and City of Spokane Municipal Court, upon their own motion, concludes a continuance in these criminal jury trials are necessary for the administration of justice.

d) All criminal jury trials scheduled to begin August 3, 2026 and through August 7, 2026 shall be continued until Monday, August 10, 2026.

e) The Court finds that the serious danger and emergency conditions posed by the Spokane Complex fire is good cause to continue criminal jury trials and constitutes an unavoidable circumstance under CrR 3.3(e)(8) and CrRLJ 3.3(e)(8).

f) Based upon the court's finding that the serious danger posed by the Spokane Complex fire is good cause to continue criminal jury trials and constitutes an unavoidable circumstance under CrR 3(e)(8) and CrRLJ 3.3(e)(8), the time between the date of this order and the date of the next scheduled trial date are EXCLUDED when calculating time for trial. See CrR 3.3(e)(3) and CrRLJ 3.3(e)(3).

**2. Continuance of Civil and Criminal Matters**

A continuance of all civil and criminal matters (with the exceptions noted below) set before the court on Monday August 3, 2026 and Tuesday August 4, 2026 is necessary in the interest of justice. The Courts shall review the need for further continuances beyond Tuesday August 4, 2026, by 8 a.m. on Tuesday August 4, 2026 and will issue a new Order if necessary.

**3. Criminal Court Appearances**

All in-custody first appearance (including juvenile) hearings shall be conducted as normally set.

**4. Civil Jury Trials.**

The Court will conduct no civil jury trials until at least Monday, August 10, 2026.

**5. Ex Parte Orders.**

The Court will hear ex parte motions that are emergency in nature:

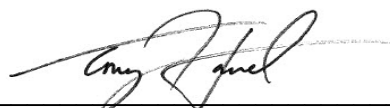
- In Forma Pauperis connected with the emergent motion
- Civil Protection Orders

**6. ITA's**

ITA hearings shall be conducted as regularly set (Superior Court only).

This Order may be further extended or modified as necessary.

Dated: August 2, 2026



Judge Tony Hazel  
Presiding Judge  
Spokane County Superior Court



Judge Jeffrey R. Smith  
Presiding Judge  
Spokane County District Court



Judge Kristin O'Sullivan  
Presiding Judge  
City of Spokane Municipal Court