

SB 5315-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Requires the Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs to convene a model policy work group to develop a model policy for sheriffs regarding residents, landowners, and others in lawful possession and control of land in the state during a forest fire or wildfire. The model policy must be designed in a way that, first and foremost, protects life and safety during a forest fire or wildfire. The model policy must include guidance on allowing access, when safe and appropriate, to residents, landowners, and others in lawful possession and control of land in the state during a wildfire or forest fire. The model policy must specifically address procedures to allow, when safe and appropriate, residents, landowners, and others in lawful possession and control of land in the state access to their residences and land to: (1) Conduct fire prevention or suppression activities;

(2) Protect or retrieve any property located in their residences or on their land, including equipment, livestock, or any other belongings; or

(3) Undertake activities under both provisions.

Provides that each county sheriff may, until a model policy pursuant to this act is developed and implemented in the sheriff's county, establish and maintain a registry of persons authorized to access their land during a forest or wildfire.