



Bolt Creek Fire

Incident Commander: Kent Stanford
Fire Information Phone: (360) 370-4170
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Inciweb: inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/8417

9 AM, September 21, 2022

Estimated size: 10,193 acres

Completed: 95%

Start Date/Time: 9/10/2022 at 5:15 am

Area of Origin: King Co., North of Skykomish

Cause: Undetermined

Structures Damaged: one out-building

Management of fire: Western Washington Incident Management Team 3

Western Washington Incident Management Team, Kent Stanford, Incident Commander, has assumed command as of this morning.

Road Closures:

The Washington Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) geotechnical team was on site along the Highway 2 corridor yesterday identifying falling debris and other hazards. Identified hazards will need to be mitigated prior to opening of the highway. A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday afternoon to review the assessments and to determine when the highway may be opened.

Highway 2 from the east side of Miller River Road (Old Cascade Highway) to the west side of 5th Street in Skykomish remains closed to all, with the exception of fire personnel. Highway 2 remains closed just east of Index-Galena Road, near Sunset Falls (MP 36), to the junction of 5th St N into the town of Skykomish (MP 49). Local highway access is permitted for **residents with identification** from the west closure at MP 36 to the intersection of Miller River Road (Old Cascade Highway). We ask residents to please be mindful of the fire crews working along the highway and follow posted speed limits.

Update:

The strategic objectives for Western Washington Incident Management Team are strategically aligned with the departing team. The Bolt Creek fire management team remains focused on continued efforts to protect values at risk along Highway 2 corridor and prevent any future spread to the west and east. Fire crews remain on scene and will continue to monitor the control lines. Fire spread in the Wild Sky Wilderness is expected to be minimal because of rock outcroppings and other holding features. Firefighters will continue monitoring the area. Clear skies, slightly higher temperatures, and lower relative humidity's created a drying trend resulting in more aggressive creeping and smoldering of vegetation within the control area. Materials being consumed provide visible smokey conditions among neighboring communities.

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Weather and Fire Behavior: Fire within the control area is characterized by backing and flanking. Most fire activity will be limited to smoldering and creeping producing smoke and visible flames. Additional smoke can be seen from possible, occasional, single tree or small group torching. However, short-range spotting distances are limited with the current lighter winds. Average temperatures will be near 64°F on the upper ridges and 78°F in the valleys. Relative humidity will drop down to around. Thursday and Friday a trough traversing eastern Washington will lead to increased moisture and cloud cover thanks to reinforced onshore flow. Precipitation chances will increase on Friday, but only a few hundredths to one tenth of an inch accumulation can be expected. No significant wind events are on the horizon.

Smoke: Increased smoke production is anticipated. Current information on air quality may be found at Washington Smoke Blog at <https://wasmoke.blogspot.com/>

Evacuation Levels: Evacuation levels remain unchanged and will be reassessed on Wednesday, September 21, 2022.

- Level 1 (Ready): Index and Skykomish
- Level 2 (Set): Baring and Grotto and area along U.S. 2 east to the Money Creek tunnel.
- Level 3 (Go): From west side of Money Creek tunnel to milepost 48, plus FS Road 65 (Beckler River Road).

Current Evacuation and road closures information can be found at: <https://snohomish-county-public-safety-hub-snoco-gis.hub.arcgis.com/pages/wildfire>

Conditions could change quickly, and evacuations may again become necessary.

Forest Closure: The Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest has implemented an Emergency Closure on National Forest System lands. Roads, trails, and campgrounds are closed. To read the closure in its entirety, please see: [MBSNF Bolt Creek Fire Closure](#)

Resources: 254 personnel – 2-type 2 initial attack hand crews, 2 hand crews, 15-engines, 1-masticators, and 104 overhead.

A burn ban is in effect until significant rain is received. Please refrain from burning. Remember, “Be Ember Smart, Don’t Let a Wildfire Start.”

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