



Sawmill Creek Fire Update for September 17, 2017

Enumclaw Washington, September 17, 2017 - The Sawmill Creek Fire is currently 1098 acres with 0% containment. No structures have been damaged or destroyed.

Firefighters remain on the line today, making their way towards the fire's edge and building direct containment lines. Divisions continue to focus efforts on The Dalles, Crystal Mountain Communities, and Alta Crystal Resort areas; they have completed control lines and have placed sprinkler systems to assist in structure defense. As the fire backs down slopes in the area firefighters are mopping up near the control lines. The fire continues to threaten the watershed for the City of Tacoma, industrial timberland, DNR protected lands, and the United States Forest Service lands.

State Highway 410 remains closed at SR 123, east of Cayuse Pass; the closure includes Bumping River Road and its associated trails.

A storm system will impact the fire area starting today. We will see cooler temperatures, higher humidity, and wetting rain becoming likely in the late afternoon and evening. Temperatures in the low 50's to mid-60 range. Southwest winds with gusts to 20 miles per hour are expected. This weather will favorably impact fire conditions.

Incident Personnel 357; Crews 12; Helicopters 2; Engines 9; Dozers 3; Injuries 0; Ambulance 1; Watertender 1; Structures Damaged or Destroyed 0

As the fire continues to slowly burn down to the highway, representatives from Incident Command, Pierce County Sheriff's Department, Pierce County Department of Emergency Management, and the Fire Chief of Greenwater identified a plan for awareness and evacuation areas.

King and Pierce County Emergency Management offer free notification services to alert residents of emergencies such as severe weather, flooding, unexpected road closures, missing persons and evacuations. For more information or to sign up for alert services visit <http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/emergency-management/alert-king-county.aspx> for ALERT King County or <https://www.piercecountywa.org/921/Pierce-County-ALERT> for Pierce County ALERT.

The **Department of Natural Resources - South Puget Sound Region** covers King, Pierce, Kitsap, Mason, Thurston, and parts of Snohomish, Lewis and Grays Harbor counties. Sitting between the central Cascades and the Olympic Mountains, this region is trisected north and south by Puget Sound, Hood Canal, and Lake Washington and includes the popular Tahoma, Elbe Hills, Capitol, Green Mountain, Tahuya and Tiger Mountain state forests. The region includes 359,524 acres of state forest, agriculture, urban, and conservation lands, and the staff oversee forest practices on approximately 2.5 million acres and leads wildfire prevention and fighting efforts on 1.9 million acres of state and private forestland. Our South Puget Sound Region manages over 37,776 acres of conservation lands including Mount Si and Woodard Bay Natural Resources Conservation Areas. www.dnr.wa.gov

Mount Rainier National Park is the most glaciated peak in the contiguous U.S.A., spawning six major rivers. Subalpine wildflower meadows ring the icy volcano while ancient forest cloaks Mount Rainier's lower slopes. Wildlife abounds in the park's ecosystems. Mount Rainier ascending to 14,410 feet above sea level, stands as an icon in the Washington landscape.

<https://www.nps.gov/mora/mountrainiernps.htm>

Located on the western slopes of the Cascade mountain range extending over 140 miles between Seattle, Washington and Vancouver, British Columbia is the **Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest** with beautiful glacier-covered peaks and spectacular mountain meadows it is one of the most visited forests in the country. Old growth forests rich in history and outdoor opportunities are there for discovery. Visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/mbs/home>

A large and diverse landscape offering multiple wildernesses, biking and wheelchair accessible trails is the **Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest** providing over 4 million acres along the east slopes of the Cascade Range in Washington. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/okawen/home>

Cooperators on the incident include Washington Department of Natural Resources South Puget Sound Region, **Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest**, **Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest**, Green River Watershed, Pierce County Sheriff's Office, Greenwater Fire Department, and Washington State Guard.