

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. This is Jim Burke, with local news and commentary for Friday, May 17, 2024.

From today's *Peninsula Daily News*: Several people were being treated for smoke inhalation after a fire broke out on a motorhome on the MV Coho ferry 10 minutes before the scheduled 4:30pm docking at Port Angeles yesterday, said Port Angeles Fire Department Deputy Chief Joel McKeen. The fire was confined to the motorhome, although one or two nearby vehicles sustained minimal damage, he said. McKeen said, "The Coho crew did a great job of minimizing the spread of the fire prior to the fire crews arrival at the dock." Passengers were evacuated but the vehicles stayed on the ferry except for one that was removed during the firefight, McKeen said. Along with the Port Angeles Fire Department, Clallam County Fire Districts 2, 3 and 4 also responded, along with Olympic Ambulance.

Overnight travelers on the State Route 104 Hood Canal Bridge won't have to worry about any construction closures tonight, Friday, May 17 and tomorrow night Saturday, May 18. Contractor crews working on the center lock mechanism completed this week's work early. This means the closures scheduled each night from 10pm to 5am tonight and Saturday, May 18 are no longer needed. Instead, the bridge will operate as normal. The span will remain open to traffic subject to typical closures for marine vessels.

Work on the bridge will resume with overnight closures beginning Monday, May 20. The bridge will be open to traffic Memorial Day weekend. For a full list of all closure dates, visit the State Route 104 Hood Canal Bridge Center Lock Rehabilitation project page (<https://wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/search-projects/sr-104-hood-canal-bridge-center-lock-rehabilitation>). Each night of work is weather dependent and could be rescheduled. Real-time information is available via the WSDOT Hood Canal Bridge webpage (<https://wsdot.wa.gov/travel/roads-bridges/hood-canal-bridge>) and the WSDOT app.

On Facebook from Brinnon Fire Department, Mason County Fire Department 17, and Hoodsport Fire Rescue on Tuesday, May 14, Chief Tim Manly wrote, "At 9:45pm, our teams responded to a single-car motor vehicle collision on Highway 101 Milepost 317 in Mason County. The driver sustained non-life-threatening injuries, attempted self-extrication, and unfortunately tumbled down an embankment. The vehicle impaled the guardrail, damaging about 75 feet of it. The patient is now receiving treatment at the local hospital. Highway 101 was closed for about 90 minutes...Grateful for the assistance of MaceCom, JeffCom, and WSP. Stay safe, everyone!"

State fire assistance has been mobilized under the Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan in support of local firefighters working to contain the Tidyman Road Fire located in Klickitat County, near the town of Dallesport, which started yesterday at approximately 2:45pm. This fire was estimated at 20 acres yesterday and involved a lumber mill and wildland urban interface area. Homes, infrastructure, and cultural values are threatened. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation. The State Emergency Operations Center at Camp Murray remains activated at Level 3 – Monitoring. Mobilization specialists from the Fire Protection Bureau have ordered 3 strike teams and State Fire Marshal's Office personnel are currently working remotely to coordinate the dispatch of resources.

Under the State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan, the Fire Protection Bureau coordinates the initial dispatch and continued administrative oversight of resources and personnel for the duration of the mobilization. The Mobilization Plan is implemented to provide a process to quickly notify, assemble, and deploy fire service personnel, equipment, and other resources from around the state when fires, disasters, or other events exceed the capacity of local jurisdictions. More information about the Washington State Fire Services Resource Mobilization Plan is available at: <http://www.wsp.wa.gov/all-risk-mobilization/>.

And you may be wondering why this reporter mentioned this fire that is about 180 miles south-southeast of Port Townsend? Fire season isn't just for July, August, and September anymore. As reported by multiple news outlets, more than 100 wildfires were burning across Canada on Wednesday, and because of prevailing winds we were spared the smoke as it blew east of here into the lower 48. Just reminding everyone that, in the immortal words of Smokey Bear: "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!"

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can contact to us at news@kptz.org. This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening.