

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend. This is Jim Burke, with local news and commentary for Thursday, July 4, 2024.

This just in: Shortly before 6:15pm last evening, East Jefferson Fire Rescue (EJF) responded to a report of a structure fire at the Rose Theatre Starlight Room at 237 Taylor Street in downtown Port Townsend. First-arriving crews found that a fire confined to a popcorn machine had been extinguished by the Rose Theatre staff. There was no indication of the fire extending beyond the popcorn machine and into the structure. Crews then ventilated the concession area and theater of remaining smoke. All occupants of the theater were safely evacuated by theater staff due to the smoke. One staff member received minor burns to the fingers on one hand as she was extinguishing the fire and was treated on the scene. No injuries to customers or other staff members were reported. EJFR wants to recognize the quick action by the Rose Theatre Staff for quickly extinguishing the fire and safely evacuating the theater. Staff members had recently undergone training in fire extinguisher use and evacuation procedures, which may have guided their prompt response. That was from Robert Wittenberg, the East Jefferson Fire Rescue Community Risk Manager.

Now onto other news. State Environmental Protection sent out this reminder for everyone with a boat: The best way to keep our lakes and rivers clean and free from invasive species is to clean, drain, and dry your boats and equipment. Aquatic invasive species are non-native animals, plants, microorganisms, and pathogens that out-compete or prey on Washington's native fish and other wildlife. They come to Washington from other states and provinces on trailers, boat hulls, motors, wading boots, fishing equipment, and other ways. Once established in one lake or river, they can easily spread to more waters in Washington. They cause harm to the environment, hinder salmon recovery efforts, and damage human health and businesses. Researchers estimate that invasive zebra and quagga mussels alone could cost the power industry more than \$3 billion, and industries, businesses, and communities more than \$5 billion nationwide in 6 years.

To Protect Washington state waters, follow these steps:

- When leaving the water, clean all equipment that touched the water by removing all visible plants, algae, animals, and mud. Equipment includes watercraft hulls, trailers, shoes, waders, life vests, engines, and other gear.
- Drain any accumulated water from boats or gear, including the bilge and live and transom wells, before leaving the water access point.
- Once home, fully dry all gear before using it in a different waterbody.

If you think your boat might be carrying invasive species, call the Department of Fish and Wildlife's aquatic invasive species hotline (1-888-WDFW-AIS) and let the department know where you used the boat. If needed, the department can inspect your boat and possibly decontaminate it at little or no cost. To combat the threat, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is ramping up Mandatory Boat Inspections at our borders and high-risk water bodies to make sure that infested watercraft don't slip into Washington.

In addition to the inspections, people from out-of-state need to buy Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Permits before using their boats and other watercraft on Washington state waters. The permits may be purchased online. The prevention permit also is required by seaplane operators and commercial transporters of vessels.

There are links to resources on the transcript of this newscast at KPTZ.org:

Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers: <https://stopaquatic hitchhikers.org/>

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife: Aquatic Invasive Species Unit: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/invasive/prevention>

And the State Fire Marshal's Office sent out this message: Due to the dangers of fireworks, we urge you to celebrate safely on the 4th. In 2023, fire incidents from fireworks resulted in more than \$12 million in property damage in Washington state. Children under 15 made up 22.7% of reported fireworks injuries. When possible, it is best to choose to view fireworks at a public display. If you do set off fireworks at home, please follow these guidelines to stay safe:

- Only use legal fireworks.
- Have a bucket or hose nearby.
- Supervise children around fireworks.
- Get rid of defective fireworks properly: soak it in water overnight, drain off the water, tie it up in a garbage bag, and throw it in the trash.
- Do not consume alcohol while using fireworks.
- Safely dispose of fireworks by soaking them in water after use.
- Keep fireworks and sparklers away from your body. Sparklers can reach up to 2000° Fahrenheit.

For more information, contact the State Fire Marshal's Office at (360) 596-3904.

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