

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Friday, August 16, 2024.

At the request of Brinnon Fire Chief Tim Manly, the State Fire Marshal's office has mobilized state fire assistance in support of local firefighters working to contain the 2620 Fire which has closed Duckabush Road. This shift indicates that local, county, and regional resources have been exceeded in managing the incident. The 2620 Road Fire, which is located on the south side of Mount Jupiter, approximately 5 miles west of the town of Brinnon, started Wednesday evening, August 14, at approximately 5pm. Brinnon Fire Department, along with DNR crews, worked through Wednesday night to establish fire containment lines along the backside of residences, protecting homes on the 2500 block of Duckabush.

As of the most recent briefing last night, the fire has grown to over 350 acres. It is burning in slash and timber and is threatening homes. The entire Duckabush area is now at a Level 2 "Ready" status in the "Ready, Set, Go" evacuation alert system. Structural protection measures are in place, and firefighters are actively cutting fire lines to work toward containment. Air operations were ongoing yesterday, and have resumed this morning, and will continue until sunset, according to the Brinnon Fire Department. The fire cause is currently under investigation.

The State Emergency Operations Center at Camp Murray is activated to Level 2 – partial activation – to help coordinate state assistance for the Fire. Mobilization specialists from the Fire Protection Bureau have ordered two strike teams to help aid in containment efforts, and state Fire Marshal's Office personnel are working remotely to coordinate the dispatch of resources. Members of the Brinnon community willing to assist in evacuating animals as needed should reach out to Center Valley Animal Rescue at 360-765-0598. Please do not come to the area to assist without a specific pickup connection.

On a lighter note, the Port Townsend *Leader* reminds us that tomorrow, August 17, marks the mostly annual Uptown Street Fair and Parade. The popular Uptown Street Fair brings together the Port Townsend Farmers' Market and Arts and Crafts Fair with the Uptown Pub Beer Garden, local food, live entertainment, and free art activities, thanks to local business sponsors, collaborating nonprofits, and the city of Port Townsend. Last year, 3300 people attended the event, one of whose highlights is the Great Port Townsend Bay Kinetic Sculpture Race, which adds a lot of color to the street fair's parade. The farmers' market and its food vendors will remain open from 9am to 2pm, while the Port Townsend Arts Guild's Arts and Crafts Fair, and the Uptown Pub's outdoor beer garden, are both set to run from 9am to 5pm.

Entertainment includes yo-yo performer Eliot Minarchek from 9 to 10am, children's art activities from 10am to 1:30pm, and Family Story Time from 11 to 11:30. A variety of bands will be playing from 10am until 5pm, and The Unbelievably Colorful Yet Brief Uptown Street Fair Parade happens at 2pm. For public safety, Lawrence and Tyler streets will be closed for the Uptown Street Fair and the Port Townsend Farmers' Market location on Polk Street on Saturday.

Also this weekend, from 11 to 4 on Sunday, August 18, the All County Picnic will be held at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, not the HJ Carroll County Park as in previous years. A free community celebration, the All County Picnic is designed to inspire residents of East Jefferson County to learn about resilience and emergency

preparedness. There will be a small free food offering of ratatouille and coffee, and some sweet treats available for purchase, but it's up to you to pack your main lunch.

And finally, our city's broken water main has been fixed, but the city is asking all water customers to continue conservation measures for the next 5 to 7 days as we refill our City Lake Reservoir. Customers will be notified when the repairs are complete and the mandatory conservation measures have been cancelled.

KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5pm and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us at news@kptz.org. I'm Diane Walker. Thank you for listening.