

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker, with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, July 29, 2025.

\*\*\*

In fire news this week, East Jefferson Fire Rescue crews responded to a fire on 3rd Street in Port Hadlock on the afternoon of the 24th and found a trailer home on fire, with flames and smoke coming from the front and side of the home. They were able to quickly knock down the fire, but they found a deceased adult male inside. Two pets also died in the conflagration, and one other person was treated for minor burns on the scene and released. The cause of the fire is being investigated by the Jefferson County Fire Marshal's Office.

A wildland fire that started around midnight Sunday night in the 2500 block of Bee Mill Road was fully extinguished by 3am Monday, thanks to the efforts of the Brinnon Fire Department, Quilcene Fire Rescue, and the Washington Department of Natural Resources. The fire, which initially threatened three nearby residential structures, is currently under investigation, but it might have been caused by tree limbs coming in contact with power lines.

East Jefferson Fire Rescue reports that it also had to respond to two brush fires yesterday, one in Port Ludlow and one in Port Townsend. Both fires occurred in areas with many homes nearby. Crews were able to contain these fires quickly and keep them small, with no damage or injuries reported, but both fires could have had significant impact if the winds had been different or the fire trucks had been delayed. So be sure to pull over when you see emergency vehicles on the road.

The Jefferson County Department of Emergency Management has sent out a smoke advisory, warning that smoke has settled heavily over the Hood Canal, stretching all the way into Quilcene Bay and beyond, and that smoky conditions are expected to stick around for a while.

\*\*\*

Olympic Disposal has begun collecting glass recycling curbside in the City of Port Townsend, using the current blue bins provided. Please ensure that all recycling materials are clean and properly sorted into the bins and cardboard is to be broken down and tied in flattened bundles and placed beside your bins.

\*\*\*

The Jefferson County PUD reported and repaired two electrical outages over the weekend. The first, on Friday, was the result of a bird strike, and affected 97 homes in the North Beach area of Port Townsend. That outage was repaired within two hours, but an outage on Sunday that affected over a thousand Port Ludlow customers took over 12 hours to resolve, as it had been caused by an underground fault that proved a challenge to both isolate and repair.

\*\*\*

Jefferson County sent out a scam alert Sunday: If you have received an email or text claiming to be from the Washington State Department of Transportation, Department of Licensing, or a Department of Motor Vehicles, or if you ever get a suspicious message about a traffic ticket, fine, or license issue, contact the agency directly using official contact information – never trust the links or phone numbers in the message itself, and do not click on any of the links in the message.

And, while on the subject of scams, be wary of unsolicited calls from Medicare or Wellcare purporting to be about prescription renewal. Medicare and Wellcare generally do not make unsolicited calls asking for personal details, trying to sell you something, or requesting payments. If you receive a suspicious call claiming to be from Wellcare, hang up immediately. Do not engage with the caller or provide any personal information. If you believe you've been targeted by a scam, report it to the Wellcare Fraud, Waste, and Abuse hotline at 1-866-685-8664 or contact the Federal Trade Commission at <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/>.

\*\*\*

And finally, tribal canoes participating in the Paddle to Elwha left Port Gamble early this morning and will be arriving at Fort Worden sometime between 10 and 3 today. This event, which honors ancestral traditions and celebrates the enduring spirit of Indigenous communities across the Salish Sea, is a meaningful opportunity to witness and respect the living cultures of the Coast Salish peoples. For more details, visit <https://paddletaelwha.com/>.

\*\*\*

KPTZ 91.9 FM broadcasts your local news Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at noon and 5pm. You can contact us at [news@kptz.org](mailto:news@kptz.org). I'm Diane Walker. Thank you for listening.