

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker, with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, August 12, 2025.

The Jefferson County Department of Emergency Management sent out a level 1 evacuation alert yesterday for Dosewallips Road residents after a brushfire started around milepost 6.5. As of last night the fire, which was determined to be of human origin, had burned three acres and was 50% contained, but the level 1 evacuation alert is still in effect as of 9:00 this morning. Brinnon Fire personnel express their thanks to Loves Construction, JeffCom 911, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Washington DNR, federal firefighters from the Quilcene Ranger Station, East Jefferson Fire Rescue, Quilcene Fire Rescue, Hoodsport Fire and EMS, Discovery Bay Fire & Rescue, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Jefferson County Fire Marshal's Office for their ongoing efforts to contain this fire.

Brinnon Fire Department also responded early Saturday morning to a motor vehicle accident on Highway 101 just north of Dosewallips: a fallen tree caused a collision involving three vehicles, including a motorcycle trike. One person sustained head and neck injuries and was transported to a local hospital for treatment.

Local area food banks are bracing for an influx of customers following the recently passed federal budget, which includes \$187 billion in reductions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) over the next 10 years, according to *The Seattle Times*. Almost 1 million Washingtonians rely on SNAP benefits to purchase food on a monthly basis, according to a July press release from Governor Ferguson's office. Cuts could see 170,000 Washingtonians lose their benefits entirely, the *Washington State Standard* has reported, adding that the SNAP program has increased work requirements for eligibility, so that previously exempt veterans, former foster youth, and homeless people will now be required to work at least 20 hours a week in order to be entitled to benefits. All of which means local food banks are going to be affected, with more demand at a time when funding and food sources are being reduced.

The Jefferson County Food Bank Association (JCFBA) saw its service numbers rise from 3,100 households in June to 3,700 in July, Jefferson County Food Bank Association Executive Director Patricia Hennessy said. Hennessy said she hopes the steep increase was a fluke, but she added that the jump is sobering. "If we start seeing 600 (household increases) month over month, it is not sustainable," Hennessy said. "Our supply is not going to be able to keep up with that level of demand. With people having less money with SNAP benefits to spend on food, they will be coming to the food banks." If demand outpaces supply, the food banks eventually would need to reduce how much food each household receives, Hennessy said.

The Sequim Food Bank serves 1,500 people each week, Executive Director Andra Smith said, adding that approximately 20% to 25% of residents in Clallam County are on SNAP. "That's money that people were spending in our local grocery stores and farmers markets on food, so it's going to cause an economic impact on our community as well."

Funding cuts already have affected JCFBA, which lost \$30,000 in food purchasing power when the USDA Local Food Purchasing Agreement grant canceled a billion dollars in grant money which had allowed schools and food banks to purchase from local producers. And that means local food producers also lost sales. JCFBA's warehouse space is limited and the organization does not have the ability to freeze dry food, although they are

currently investing in increasing capacity in their Tri-Area distribution center. But in the end, food banks will need to increase their reliance on the charity of the general public.

And finally, today is expected to be another scorcher, but the temperatures should be dropping back down to normal by tomorrow. In the meantime, Jefferson County Public Health advises you to stay indoors if possible, drink plenty of fluids (but avoid beverages that contain alcohol, caffeine, or a lot of sugar), don't leave pets or people in a parked vehicle, and check frequently on elderly or ill individuals who may be seriously affected by the heat.

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