

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Diane Walker with your local news and commentary for Tuesday, June 2, 2026.

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With the onset of June, the wildfire season has officially begun. Fire crews from Brinnon and Quilcene worked through the night last night and have successfully contained a human-caused brush fire in the 1900 block of Duckabush Road near Overbrook Road. Crews are expected to remain on scene through late morning while they complete mop-up and ensure the area is safe.

According to Willie Bence, the director of the county's Department of Emergency Management, this summer is predicted to be unusually warm and dry, increasing wildfire danger through August. The county fire marshal and district fire chiefs are already discussing raising the fire danger level. And, of course, with wildfire season comes smoke, with its mixture of substances harmful to both health and environment. To stay a step ahead of poor air quality, Jeffco Public Health recommends that you visit the EPA's Fire & Smoke Map at [fire.airnow.gov](http://fire.airnow.gov). That site will not only let you know where fires are burning and where the smoke is headed, but will also predict how it's impacting air quality.

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Levels of biotoxins in Discovery Bay have begun dropping, and it is now safe to harvest littleneck clams, manila clams, mussels, and oysters. However, the Washington Department of Health states that butter and varnish clams remain closed to recreational shellfish harvesting in Discovery Bay because they retain toxins for a longer period of time.

To find out which areas are safe to harvest shellfish in Washington, visit <http://fortress.wa.gov/doh/biotoxin/biotoxin.html> call the Biotoxin Hotline at 1-800-562-5632.

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Starting June 4, PUD crews will begin clearing the communications and power space in and around Coyle in preparation for the planned fiber buildout. This means wood chips! If you are in need of wood chips in the Coyle area, email [treetrimming@jeffpud.org](mailto:treetrimming@jeffpud.org). Please note: a load of wood chips can be up to 10 yards of material.

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Brinnon Fire Department is currently working with Quilcene Fire Rescue and Discovery Bay Fire Rescue to explore a proposed South Jefferson County Regional Advanced Life Support (ALS) Pilot Program. They are considering acquiring a shared paramedic response unit, sometimes called an ALS sprint car, a smaller response vehicle designed to bring time-sensitive paramedic-level care and advanced medical equipment to serious emergencies more quickly.

ALS Paramedics would provide advanced assessment, medications, airway management, cardiac monitoring, advanced treatment for respiratory emergencies, advanced trauma support, overdose care, stabilization, and triage that would supplement, but not replace any existing services. The local ambulance, EMTs, and firefighters would still respond, and the existing transport system would still remain in place.

For rural areas like South Jefferson County, this concept could improve access to paramedic-level emergency care while supporting the emergency services already in place. The study is still in the feasibility and

development stage. No final funding source, employer structure, or final operational model has been established.

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Naloxone, a life-saving medication that can reverse opioid overdoses, is available for free at several locations across Jefferson County, including the Tri-Area Community Center in Chimacum, Jefferson County Library, Jefferson County Public Health, Recovery Cafe in Port Townsend, Quilcene Fire Station, Quilcene Community Center, and Port Townsend Library. Jeffco Public Health now offers a comprehensive training video to teach you how to use Naloxone correctly. To help reverse opioid overdoses, you can watch now at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7-xYP97AmA>.

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And finally, though the weather is warming, water in lakes, streams and the ocean in the Pacific Northwest remains frigid. Fifty-five degree water may not sound very cold, but it can be deadly. Plunging into cold water of any temperature can be dangerous if you are not prepared for what the sudden exposure can do to your body and brain.

Warm air temperatures can create a false sense of security for boaters and beach goers, so if you are planning to be on or near the water, learn the conditions and how to protect yourself at the link provided in the transcript of this broadcast:

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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.