



Bolt Creek Fire Update

September 29, 2022

Western Washington Incident Management Team 3

Incident Commander: Kent Stanford

Estimated size: 12,070 acres

Cause: Undetermined

Resources: 175 personnel – One hotshot crew, two type-2 initial attack hand crews, two hand crews, one helicopter, 13 engines, one dozer, one water tender and 78 overhead.

US 2 CLOSED: US 2 is closed between mile marker 46 and 50 due to fire activity and falling trees along the road.

Fire Update: Crews continued work along the US 2 corridor on Wednesday, primarily cleaning up areas near Beckler River Road and chipping vegetation that had fallen into the road over the last few days. The fire has made it to US 2 through much of the closure area, but there still remains some areas along the highway that will have persistent pockets of heat. Today, crews will continue to mitigate hazard trees, reinforce firelines, protect structures and clear debris off US 2. Wednesday's mild temperatures and high relative humidity—which reached 70-100 percent over the fire area on Wednesday afternoon, accompanied by around .10 inches of rain—quieted fire behavior and contributed to much less smoke output during the day. Conditions are expected to be similar today.

A Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) team started work on the Bolt Creek Fire this week, with a goal to assess potential post-fire risks to human life, safety, or property, and to critical natural and cultural resources, as well as potential emergency stabilization measures that can be implemented to mitigate flooding or debris flows. If the BAER assessment team determines there may be potential emergency situations, the short-term goal is to complete flood and erosion control protection measures before the first large rain events.

Weather: Today will be mostly cloudy with a 60 percent chance of rain in the afternoon. Temperatures in the lower 50s on ridges and 60s in the valleys. Humidity will hover between 60-80 percent and possibly higher in the fire area. Winds on ridgetops will be 4-8 mph with gusts of 10-15, while valley winds will be 3-6 mph with gusts to 12.

September 29, 2022 Morning operations briefing: <https://youtu.be/sgBRyiZWqgs>

Evacuation Levels: Evacuation levels changed on Sunday due to fire weather and activity.

- Level 1 (Ready): Index.
- Level 1 (Ready): South of U.S. 2 near Index, including Index Estates and the Lake Serene Trailhead.
- Level 1 (Ready): East of Skykomish, from the Beckler River to Forest Service Road 66, north and south of U.S. 2 including Foss River Road.
- No other evacuation guidance for occupied areas of Snohomish County.
- Level 2 (Set): Baring and Grotto and area along U.S. 2 east to the Money Creek tunnel continues.
- Level 2 (Set): Skykomish – Get set to leave on short notice. Formerly Level 1 (Ready).
 - Residents in the area should remain vigilant. The area remains hazardous. Conditions could change quickly, and evacuations may again become necessary.
- Level 3 (Go): From west side of Money Creek tunnel to milepost 48, plus FS Road 65 (Beckler River Road).

Evacuations/ Emergency Alert Systems:

King County: <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/emergency-management/alert-king-county.aspx>

Snohomish County: <https://snohomish-county-public-safety-hub-snocogis.hub.arcgis.com/pages/wildfire>

Smoke: Increased smoke production is anticipated. Current information on air quality may be found at Washington Smoke Blog at <https://wasmoke.blogspot.com/>

Forest Closure: The Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest has implemented an Emergency Closure on National Forest lands. Roads, trails, and campgrounds are closed. To read the closure in its entirety, please see: [MBSNF Bolt Creek Fire Closure](#). A burn ban remains in effect until significant rain is received. Please refrain from burning.

Fire Information Phone: (360) 370-4170

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Incweb: inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/8417

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/boltcreekfireinfo>