

NORTHWEST INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM 10
INCIDENT COMMANDER: ALAN LAWSON

Sourdough Fire Update – August 7, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.

North Cascades National Park

Fire Information Line: 360-370-4169

Email: 2023.sourdough@firenet.gov

Inciweb: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/warlp-sourdough-fire>

Resources: 340 Total Personnel | 6 Hand Crews | 22 Engines | 5 Water Tenders | 4 Helicopters

(Newhalem, Wash.) -- The Sourdough Fire started with a lightning strike on July 29 near Diablo in the steep and rugged terrain of the Ross Lake Recreation Area, 7 miles northeast of Newhalem. An estimated 1,440 acres have burned. Due to hazards presented by the fire, State Route 20 (North Cascades Highway) has been closed until further notice between Mile Marker 120 and Mile Marker 156. Northwest Incident Management Team 10 (NW Team 10), managed by Incident Commander Alan Lawson, took command of the fire at 6 a.m. today, bringing additional resources and capacity to the Sourdough Fire. Members of the incoming team spent the day with the Southern Area Incident Management Team, gathering information, assessing and surveying the fire area. The safety of firefighters and the public are the top priority on the Sourdough Fire.

Yesterday: Helicopters played an integral role due to the remote and difficult location of the fire by delivering equipment to crews in areas not served by roads and making bucket drops on the fire's most active areas. Crews had to be transported by boat to the Ross Lake Resort where efforts to prepare the structures there as well as at the Environmental Learning Center are on-going. In and around Diablo, crews patrolled the area and mopped-up hot spots. Along State Route 20 and under the transmission lines running from Diablo Dam, firefighters continued removing vegetation to strengthen these features as fuel breaks. Fire behavior was light during the morning hours but as the inversion lifted and strong winds increased in the afternoon, moderate fire activity was observed on the west side of Stetattle Creek.

Today: Steep slopes, rolling debris and fire-weakened trees around most of the fire area pose serious hazards to firefighters, inhibiting their efforts to attack the fire directly. Crews will continue to focus on protecting values at risk such as buildings and infrastructure while utilizing aviation resources to check the fire's spread. Firefighters will continue clearing brush along Highway 20 and the powerline easement. In a process known as plumbing, crews will install hose lays around the Environmental Learning Center, Buster Brown Campground and Ross Lake Resort. These measures provide water supplies for protective sprinkler systems and mop-up in the event of the fire's spread. Helicopters will be available for bucket drops as necessary.

Weather: A chance of thunderstorms on Monday includes the potential for erratic winds, but little moisture is expected over the fire area. Relative humidity will be slightly higher and temperatures lower.

Smoke: Smoke from the Sourdough Fire may affect communities around the region. Find information about current conditions and a smoke forecast at <https://wasmoke.blogspot.com>.

Closures and Evacuations: Evacuations are in effect for the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center and the community of Diablo. There is no access to Diablo Dam until further notice. State Route 20 is closed from Newhalem to Rainy Pass. Trail, area and camp closures are in effect; for more information, go to:



<https://www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/fire-closures.htm>

