

NORTHWEST INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM 10  
INCIDENT COMMANDER: ALAN LAWSON

## Sourdough Fire Update – August 14, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.

North Cascades National Park

Fire Information Line: 360-370-4169

Email: [2023.sourdough@firenet.gov](mailto:2023.sourdough@firenet.gov)

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

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**Resources:** 402 Total Personnel | 5 Hand Crews | 20 Engines | 5 Water Tenders | 8 Helicopters

**(Newhalem, Wash.)** -- The Sourdough Fire started with a lightning strike on July 29 near Diablo in the steep and rugged terrain of Ross Lake National Recreation Area, 7 miles northeast of Newhalem. The Sourdough Fire is estimated at 2,953 acres and is 11% contained. State Route 20 remains closed between milepost 120 (Newhalem) and milepost 146 (just east of the East Creek Trailhead).

**Yesterday:** Hot, dry, and unstable weather conditions resulted in increased fire activity in Stetattle Creek and No Name Creek drainages. Steep slopes along State Route 20 continued to shed rocks and debris. Firefighters monitored and held the fire in the burn out area as fire backed down to State Route 20. Because no heat sources were found, yesterday was the last day firefighters used the handheld infrared camera around the structures in Diablo. Helicopters were active on the west side of Sourdough Creek, dropping water to cool and slow fire growth. Fire crews and Seattle City Light field personnel completed building control lines along the powerline corridor.

**Today:** Steep ground, extreme heat, and falling rocks continue to be a hazard to firefighters. To minimize risk to crews, an unmanned aerial system (UAS) assigned to the fire will assist with monitoring and patrolling the area along State Route 20. Crews will spike out at Colonial Creek Campground to limit exposure to safety hazards caused by debris during travel along State Route 20. Firefighters will continue to monitor fire activity as it progresses west toward the 2015 Goodell burn scar. Crews will mop up and monitor the road south of Sourdough Creek. Helicopters will continue to drop water as needed to keep fire to the west of the creek. Night crew will monitor and patrol control lines and assess threats to infrastructure along State Route 20.

**Weather:** Critical fire weather continues with high temperatures, low relative humidity, and unstable conditions. A Red Flag Warning remains in effect.

**Safety:** Fire danger is extremely high. The public can help prevent the next wildland fire by observing outdoor burning bans and avoiding other common ignition causes.

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

**Closures and Evacuations:** State Route 20 is closed from Newhalem to East Creek Trailhead. Trail, area and camp closures are in effect; for more information, go to: <https://www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/fire-closures.htm>

