

NORTHWEST INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM 10  
INCIDENT COMMANDER: ALAN LAWSON

## Sourdough Fire Update – August 15, 2023 – 9:00 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:** 444 Total Personnel | 7 Hand Crews | 20 Engines | 5 Water Tenders | 7 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. Fire resources are making progress to suppress the Sourdough Fire, despite navigating challenging weather conditions and rugged terrain.

**Yesterday:** Challenging hot and dry conditions continued, keeping much of the fire area smoldering. The rugged slopes along State Route 20 remained a concern, shedding rocks and debris onto the highway. Vigilant monitoring and containment efforts were successful in holding the fire to the north of State Route 20. Helicopter water drops on the west side of Sourdough Creek proved effective in cooling and slowing fire growth. Crews worked on mop-up operations around Diablo Lake and removed vegetation and fuels to create defensible spaces around the community of Diablo. Hazard mitigation efforts persisted along Diablo Dam Road and Buster Brown Road. The Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) continued to be utilized monitoring the fire's progression toward the 2015 Goodell burn scar.

**Today:** The challenges of steep terrain, extreme heat, and falling rocks persist. Monitoring intended fire progression toward the 2015 Goodell burn scar remains a key focus. Fuel mitigation efforts, including chipping of removed fuels, along the road areas south of Sourdough Creek are ongoing. Wildland firefighters continue working in conjunction with aerial resources to bolster firefighting efforts across the fire. Multiple aerial assets are engaged in firefighting operations. Helicopters are prepared and ready for strategic water drops, that can effectively impede fire spread to the west. Air attack planes are being used to provide eyes on the fire from above, supplying vital fire behavior intelligence to personnel on the ground. The UAS plays a crucial role in monitoring fire activity along the control lines, particularly in the challengingly steep or dangerous areas of the fire.

**Weather:** A Red Flag Warning remains in effect today. Critical fire weather continues through Wednesday with high temperatures, low relative humidity, and unstable conditions. Temperatures are expected to cool down later this week; winds and low relative humidity are expected to persist.

**Safety:** Fire danger is still 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>. Although the Sourdough Fire's smoke has not significantly impacted most areas, you can prepare for wildfire smoke by visiting these resources: <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/wildfires/smoke.html> and <https://www.wildlandfiresmoke.net/smoke-ready>

**Closures and Evacuations:** State Route 20 remains closed between milepost 120 (Newhalem) and milepost 146 (just east of the 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>

