



**PUGET SOUND
REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY**
INTERNATIONALLY ACCREDITED FIRE AGENCY
Matthew Morris Fire Chief

*Professionally and
compassionately helping people*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Update to Brush Fire

Covington, Wash – August 20, 2018 – Over 24 hours have now passed since the first reports to 911 were made notifying emergency responders of a brush fire near Hy. 18 just north of the SE 256 Street exit.

Initially, firefighters from local fire departments, including Puget Sound RFA and Maple Valley Fire, were dispatched. Those crews were able to protect the homes that were in danger of being overrun by the fire, in part because a westerly wind pushed the fire away from the houses and towards Hy. 18.

Those crews worked late into the night to keep the fire from spreading. A helicopter with a water bucket and a Port of Seattle crash truck were brought in and made a significant difference in keeping the fire in check. See attached map for an outline of the fire damage.

Today, firefighters from around the region were brought in to support those on the scene. The new firefighters were “hand crews,” which is the term used for those specially trained to fight brush and forest fires. They use special, light weight fire protection and hand tools that help dig out deeply seated fires.

The hand crews are scheduled to return tomorrow. Command staff are hoping that one more full day of firefighting will fully extinguish this brush fire. Crews estimate they have the fire 60% contained and will remain on scene throughout the night to monitor the situation.

Fire crews would like to thank the residents in the area for their support and understanding while they work in the area. For those traveling on Hy. 18, please drive carefully near the burn scene and be aware that winds can blow smoke across the highway, limiting a driver’s ability to see.

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