



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

*Professionally and
compassionately helping people*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brush fire on NB I-5

Kent, Wash – 8/7/2019

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Last night Puget Sound Fire responded to a brush fire on Northbound I-5. The initial dispatch was for the report of flames from under a car at 7:10 PM. Two engines were dispatched to the car fire. A few minutes after the initial report Washington State Patrol arrived and reported that the fire was spreading up the grass and up the hillside. Additional reports of a brush fire created a second incident and added additional resources. The first arriving engine company reported a fully involved car fire and a 100 X 200 ft brush fire on the hillside. Hose lines were deployed to halt the spread of the fire up the hillside. While the fire was being controlled from the freeway side, three fire engines were added and located in the neighborhood that backs up to the freeway. Hose line were deployed there to protect the residences.

Due to the lack of water on the freeway, fire engines were used to shuttle water. The Port of Seattle (SeaTac Airport) also provided a large Aircraft Rescue/Firefighting truck which carries 1200 gal of water and can shoot water up the hillside from the freeway. In total 11 fire department units responded from Puget Sound Fire and South King Fire and Rescue including 7 engines, the ARFF truck from the airport, and 3 command units. In addition, the incident was supported by WSP and a Department of Transportation incident response truck.

While the car was total loss, due to the quick work of the initial companies, the fire was limited to hillside and was stopped approx. 20 feet from the back fences of the houses. This is just another example of how the fire departments in the area work together to protect the community.

The cause of this roadside fire was the flames from vehicle fire, but it is a good reminder to consider other sources of roadside fires. So not throw burning material (cigarettes) out of the vehicle. Secure tow chains so they do not drag and spark. And do not park a hot vehicle in dry grass.

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