



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Large brush fire in Covington

Covington, Sept. 8, 2020

This afternoon Puget Sound Fire responded to a large brush fire in the 17000 block of SE Wax Road in Covington.

The call was initially dispatched as a grass fire behind the former Covington Elementary School at 3:43 PM. When the first crew arrived it had spread to approx. 100 X 100 feet in the grass and additional resources were requested. As the fire continued to spread into a wooded area to the north of the field the fire was upgraded, and a second alarm was requested. Engine companies were placed on the street to the north to protect several residential structures. Crews did a great job protecting the neighborhood and stopped the fire as it fire burned right up to the houses and in a few cases into back yards. Two sheds were burned but no houses were lost. To the north of the woods the fire burned up to and damaged a fence of a new construction project but crews again did a great job of stopping the fire at the property line saving the facility that was almost ready to be occupied.

As crews aggressively fought the fire resources were being stretched across all of south King County and a strike team from Zone 1 (North King County) was requested bring an additional 5 engines , a medic unit, and a chief officer from Bellevue and Mercer Island to this fire. In total 24 local units responded to the fire including Mountain View Fire, Renton RFA, Enumclaw Fire, King County Medic One and Zone 3 Fire Rehab as well as the units from Zone 1. Assistance was also provided by King County Sheriff's Office and Covington PD to assist with traffic and getting folks out of the neighborhood. The fire was contained by 5:00 PM and crews continued to mop up.

There were no injuries to firefighters or residents. The cause of the fire is under investigation and crews will remain on scene for the evening to monitor host spots. The recent hot and dry weather has created dangerous fire conditions. Crews from across the area have been working hard for the last two days with fires that we typically experience on the east side of the state but are becoming normal here. Huge thanks to all our partners in fire, law enforcement, and dispatch centers. Fire agencies in Zone 3 routinely train and drill together. During yesterday and today's fires, resources are responding together to best serve our communities, and the public becomes an even more important member of the team!! Please help and do your part to prevent fires.

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