

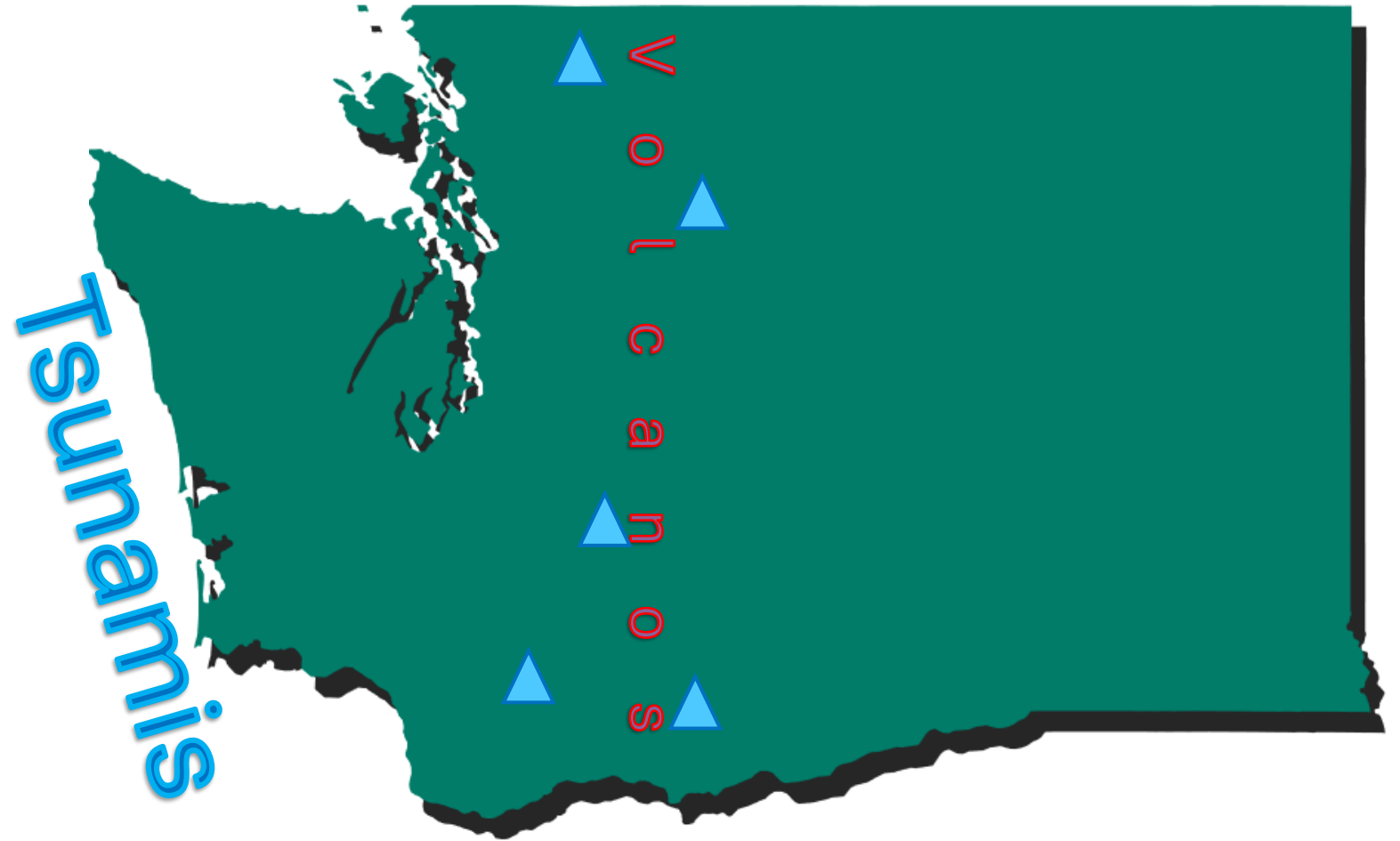


Senior Lobby: Emergency Preparedness, Wildfire Response, and Personal Preparedness

August 17, 2026

Threats and Hazards in WA

- Avalanches
- Drought
- Flood
- Earthquakes
- Landslide
- Severe Storms
- Tornadoes
- Tsunamis
- Volcanic Eruptions
- Wildfires
- Hazardous Material
- Radiological Hazard



Early August Climate Outlook

By Jacob Genuise

El Nino: less precipitation
and warmer temperatures

Key Messages:

- El Niño continued to intensify in the tropical Pacific this month.
- Odds of a very strong El Niño event by this fall have increased since the last ENSO strength forecast from NOAA. There is now an 80%+ chance of a very strong event by the October-December period.
- The 1-month August outlook shows overall low predictability with slightly elevated chances of above normal temperatures statewide and drier than normal conditions across western Washington.
- The 3-month late summer outlook shows a higher 50-60% chance of above normal temperatures statewide and elevated chances of drier than normal conditions across northwestern Washington.

1-Month Outlook (August)



Temperature
Probability



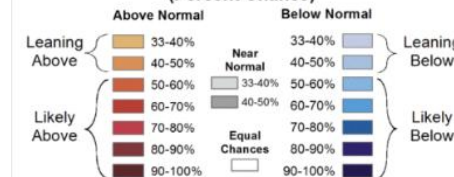
Below

Precipitation
Probability

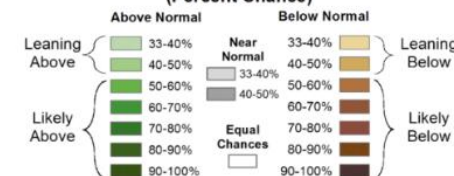
3-Month Outlook (August-October)



Temperature
Probability
(Percent Chance)



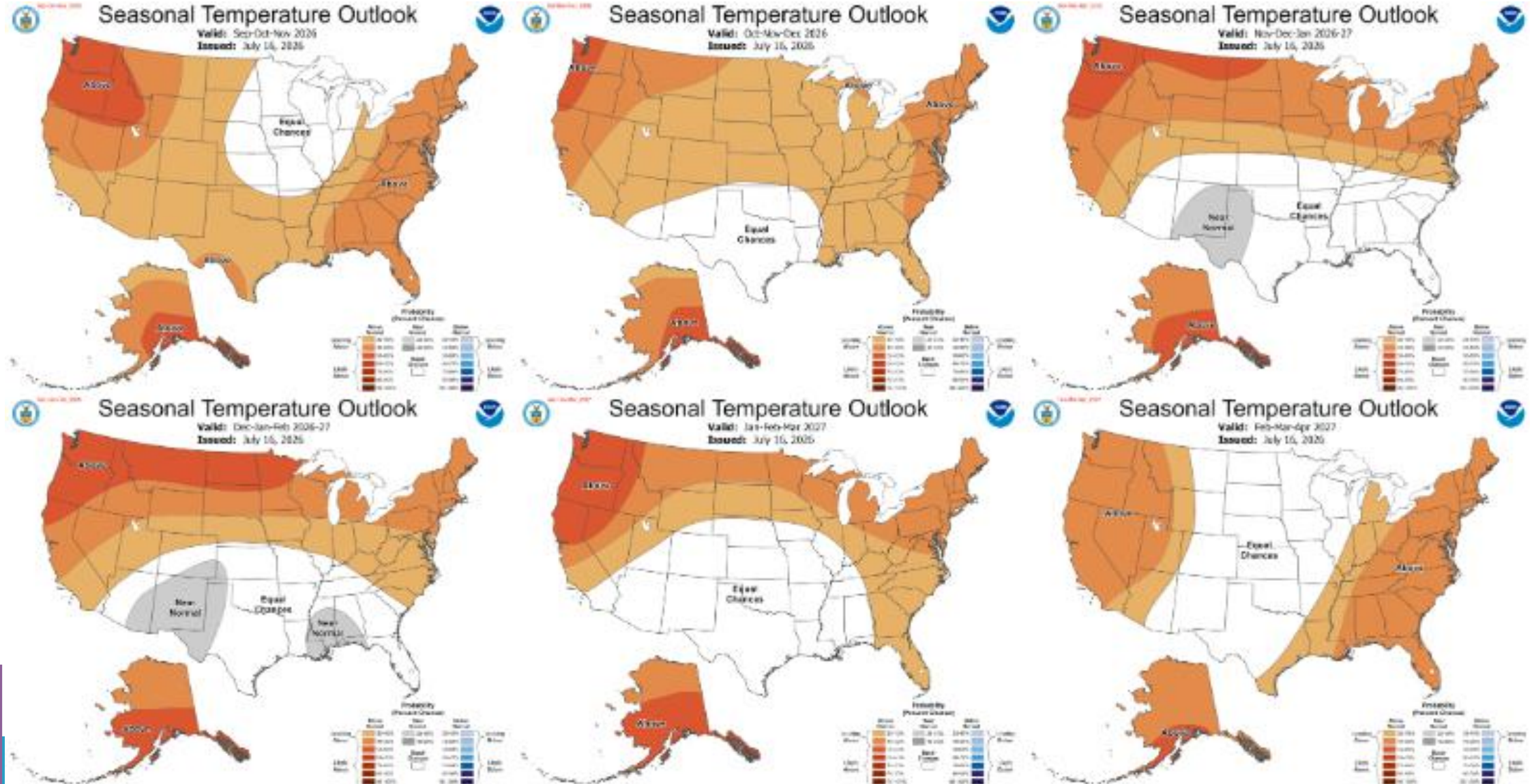
Precipitation
Probability
(Percent Chance)



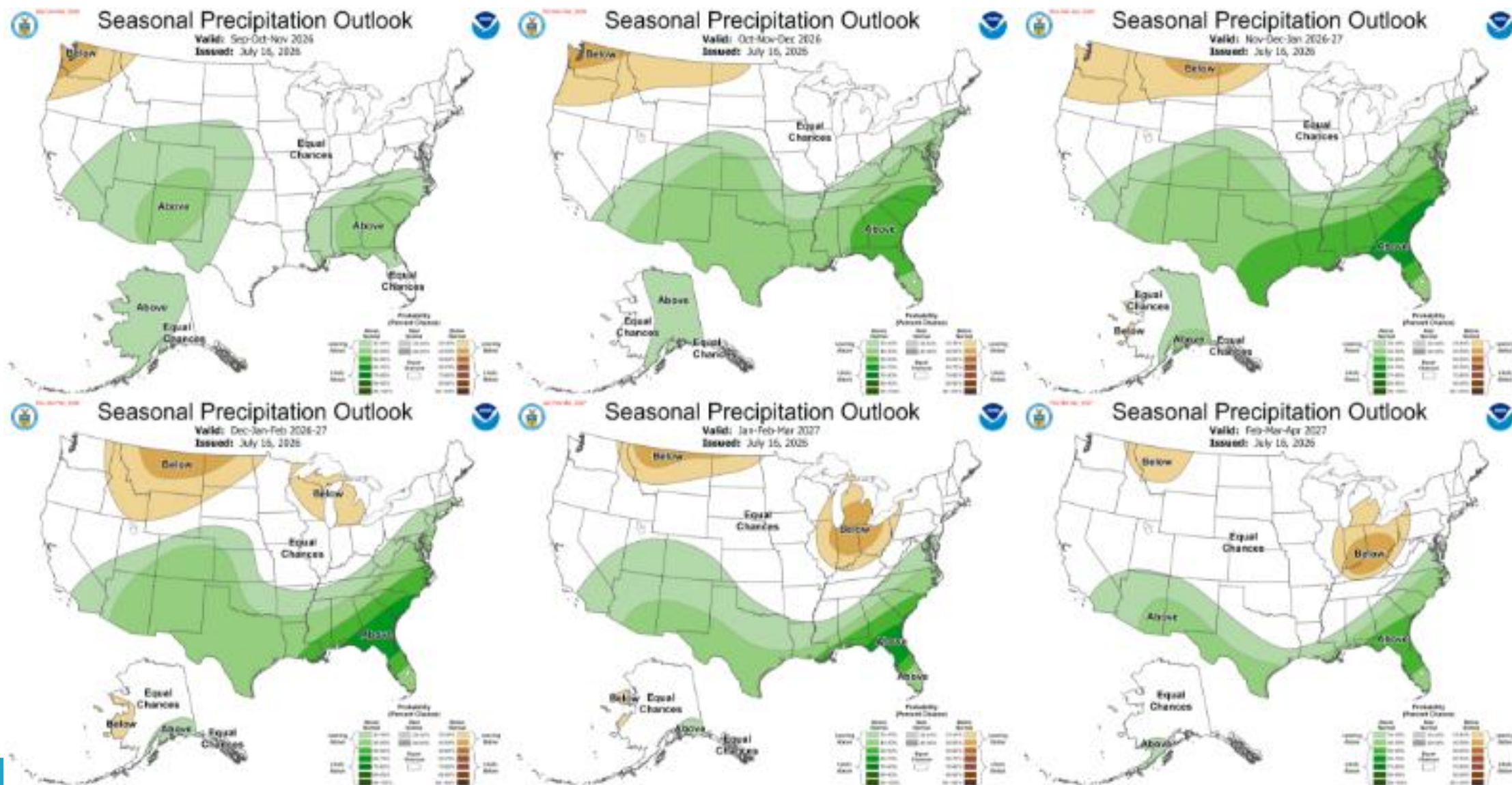


DSHS

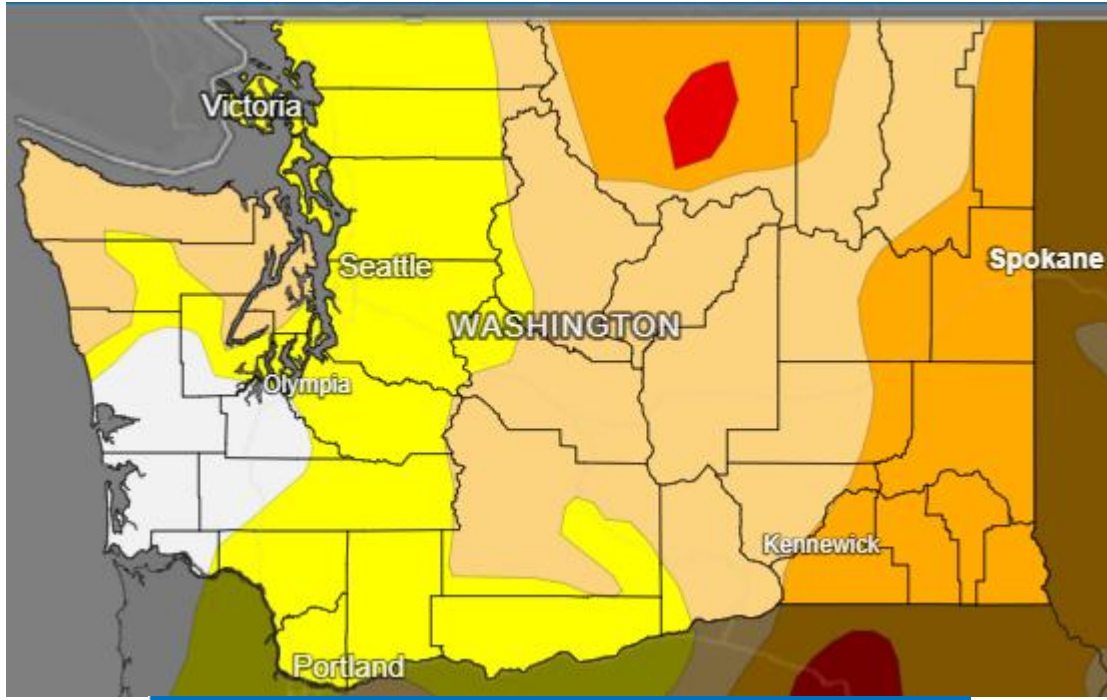
Temperature Prediction Outlook: September 2026 – April 2027



Precipitation Prediction Outlook: September 2026 – April 2027



Drought Emergency 2026



Legend

Drought & Dryness Categories



D0 – Abnormally Dry

D1 – Moderate Drought

D2 – Severe Drought

D3 – Extreme Drought

D4 – Exceptional Drought

Total Area in Drought (D1–D4)

% of WA

29.9%

40.5%

22.3%

0.9%

0.0%

63.7%

On April 8, 2026, the Washington State Department of Ecology issued a drought declaration for all watersheds in the state due to low snowpack and multiple years of precipitation deficits. This is the state's fourth consecutive drought declaration – a record under the current drought framework established in 1989.



WA State - Weather Risk Outlook

This outlook is updated twice weekly by 7am Monday and 7am Thursday.

Weather Forecast Office
Seattle, Spokane, Pendleton, Portland
Sunday, August 16

	Sunday, Aug 16	Monday, Aug 17	Tuesday, Aug 18	Wednesday, Aug 19	Thursday, Aug 20	Friday, Aug 21	Saturday, Aug 22
Northwest Washington NWS Seattle Forecast Area Briefing	Thunderstorms Heat	Heat	Heat	Heat	Heat	Heat	Heat
Southwest Washington NWS Portland Forecast Area Briefing	Heat	Heat	Heat	Heat	Heat	Heat	Heat
Northeast Washington NWS Spokane Forecast Area Briefing	Thunderstorms Heat Smoke	Heat Smoke	Breezy Heat Smoke	Heat Smoke	Heat Smoke	Heat Smoke	Breezy Heat Smoke
Southeast Washington NWS Pendleton Forecast Area Briefing	AM T-Storms Heat Smoke	Heat Smoke	Breezy Heat Smoke	Heat Smoke	Heat Smoke	Heat Smoke	Breezy Heat Smoke



- Northwest Washington - NWS Seattle - nws.seattle@noaa.gov
- Southwest Washington - NWS Portland - nws.portland@noaa.gov
- Northeast Washington - NWS Spokane - nws.spokane@noaa.gov
- Southeast Washington - NWS Pendleton - pdt.operations@noaa.gov

Washington State - Areas of Responsibility

Risk Levels

Little to None

Minor

Moderate

Major

Extreme



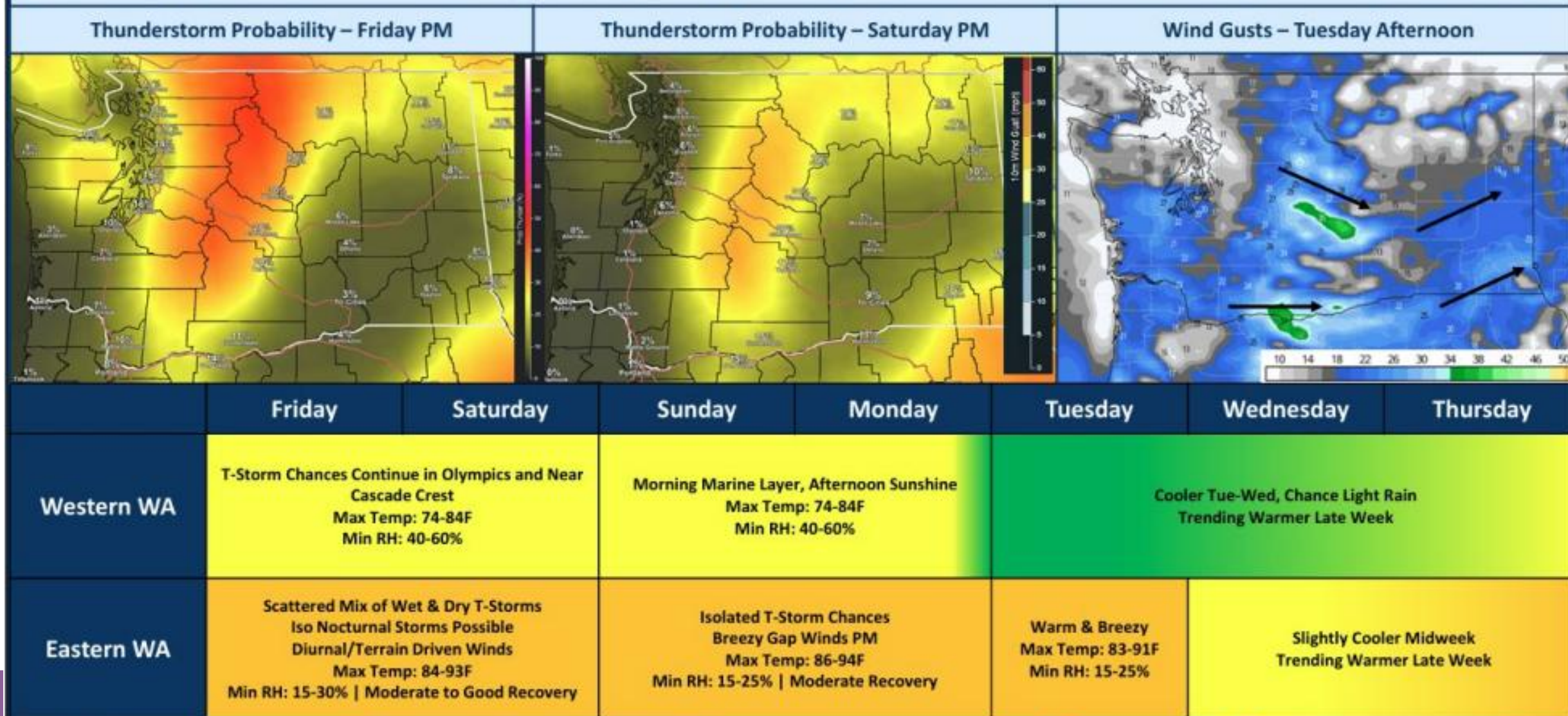
Washington State Key Messages

Weather Forecast Office
Seattle, Spokane, Pendleton, Portland
Sunday, August 16

- **Isolated to scattered thunderstorms develop Sunday, generally focused over the mountain areas.**
 - Primary threats will be lightning, erratic wind gusts, and localized wetting rains resulting in elevated risk of burn scar debris flows. Lightning may produce new fire starts, and gusty winds may cause dangerous conditions around new and existing wildfires.
- **Wildfire smoke will continue to cause periods of degraded air quality and visibility in central and eastern WA, especially in close proximity to active fires.**
 - Smoke may locally impact air operations near fire activity.
- **Temperatures remain near or slightly above seasonal normals, with Minor (Yellow) HeatRisk values expected across most of the state through the week ahead. Generally dry conditions are expected, with no significant rain chances through at least Thursday.**
- **The next storm system arrives late in the week around Friday or Saturday. This could bring gusty winds and thunderstorm chances, potentially resulting in elevated to critical fire weather conditions.**

Washington Fire Weather Outlook: August 14 – 21, 2026

Bottom Line Up Front: Thunderstorm chances continue through Saturday but begin to decrease Sunday. Breezy conditions return Sun-Tue.



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES



Powered by
Global Systems
Laboratory



Risk of New Large
Fires (>100 acres)



Below Normal



Normal



Above Normal

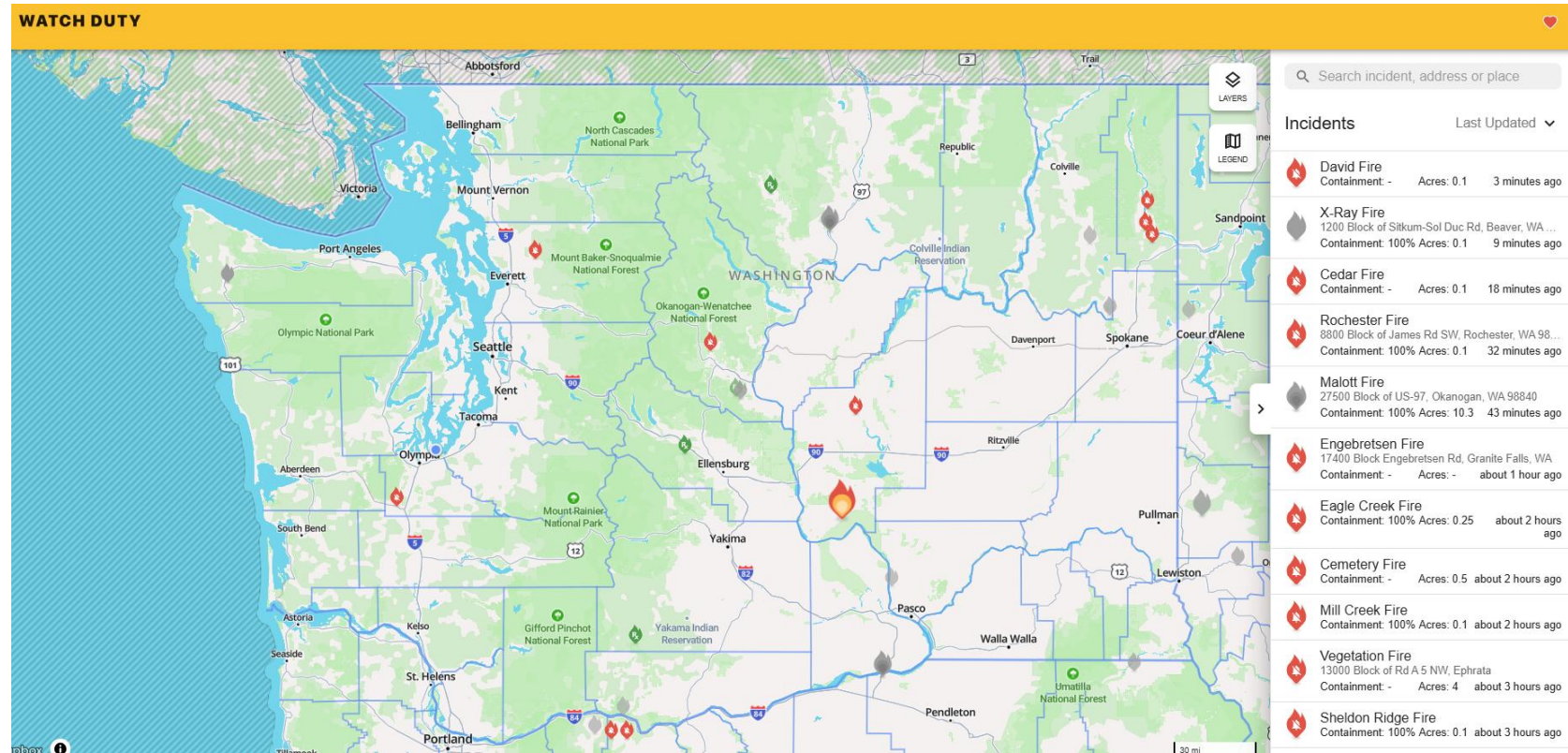


Critical

dnr.wa.gov

Wildfire Response Tools: Watch Duty

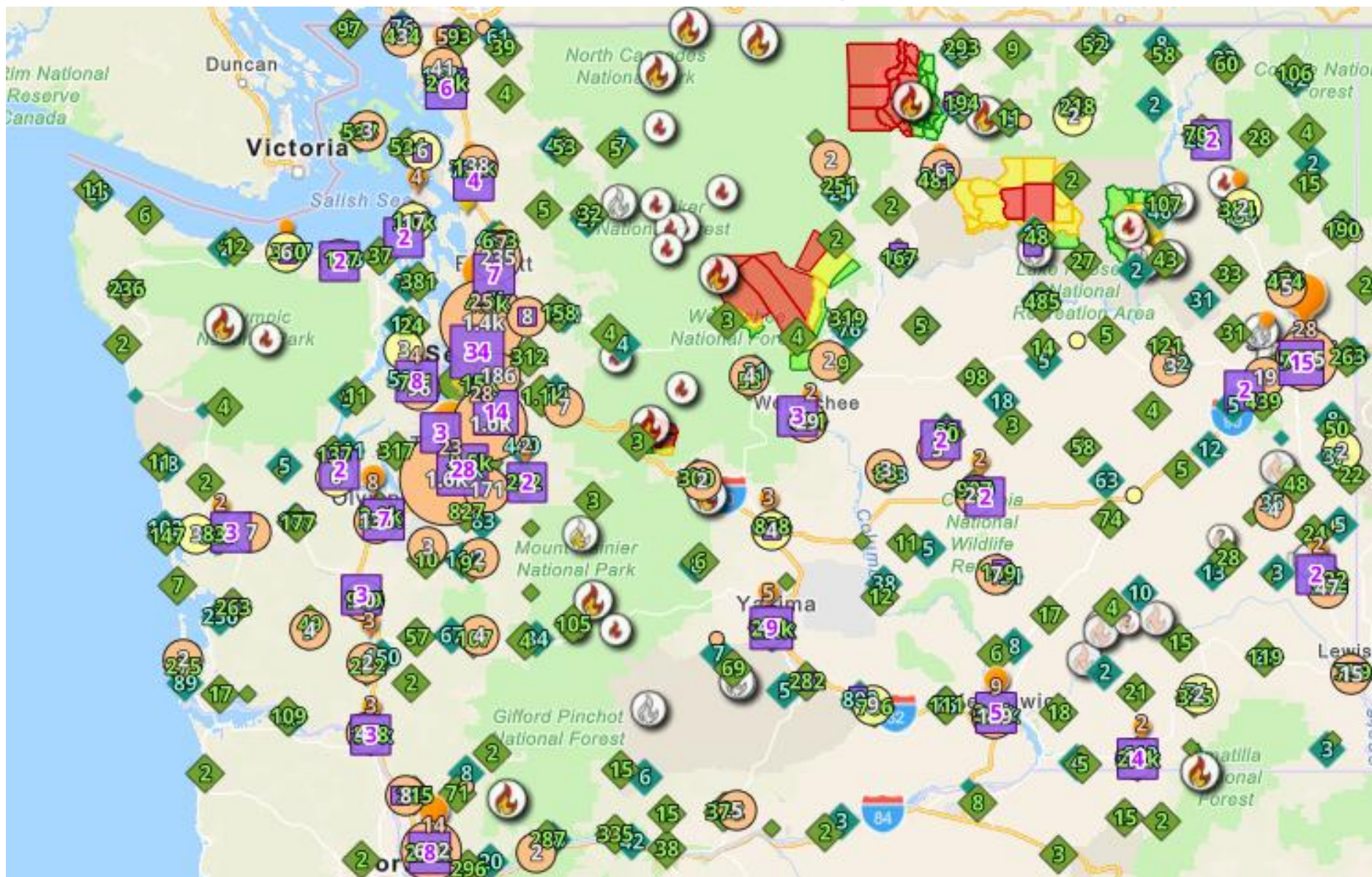
- Watch Duty is a free app to see and monitor the status of wildfires, controlled burn areas, red flag warnings, and power outages
- This app can be used on your work computer and work cell phone as well as your personal devices





DSHS

Long-Term Care Facilities, AAA In-Home Clients & Evacuation Areas – August 16, 2026



Wildfires & Evacuations

- Wildfires have become a seasonal norm in Washington. Wildfires can create the need for evacuation. Follow local orders for evacuation.

Level 1 – Ready: possible evacuation in your area. Prepare, monitor, and pack your valuables

Level 2 – Set: Short notice evacuation likely in your area. Prepare for sudden evacuation; leave now if you need extra time. **Long-term care facilities that have residents that need additional time or specific transportation needs should plan and consider evacuating at level 2.**

Level 3 – Go!: Evacuate immediately from your area. Leave now! Danger in your area.



GUIDE TO EVACUATION LEVELS

DURING AN EMERGENCY, RESIDENTS COULD BE ASKED TO EVACUATE. IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW THE TERMS USED BEFORE AND DURING AN EVACUATION.

LEVEL 1 BE READY

Time to firm up evacuation plans, pack necessities, and check on neighbors who may need assistance.

Residents should:

- Be aware of the danger in their area.
- Monitor emergency services and local media for information.
- Sign up for emergency alerts to receive up-to-date information.
- Plan how to evacuate if they have health or mobility issues, small children or animals/pets.

LEVEL 2 BE SET

Residents should:

- Be prepared to leave with little notice.
- Pack up important papers, pets and prescriptions.
- Assemble emergency kit including radio and flashlight.
- Evacuate family members with special considerations.

LEVEL 3 GO NOW

LEAVE NOW. You are in immediate danger. CHECK MEDIA for more information.



Air Quality

- Wildfires can negatively affect air quality and is a growing health risk in Washington.
- Poor air quality indoors and outdoors can increase health risks such as heart and lung diseases like asthma and COPD, those with respiratory infections, those with diabetes, people 18 and younger and older than 65, and those with functional or access needs.
- Monitor air quality and consider using air filters or air scrubbers to improve indoor air quality.

AQI Basics for Ozone and Particle Pollution

Daily AQI Color	Levels of Concern	Values of Index	Description of Air Quality
Green	Good	0 to 50	Air quality is satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Yellow	Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable. However, there may be a risk for some people, particularly those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Orange	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is less likely to be affected.
Red	Unhealthy	151 to 200	Some members of the general public may experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Purple	Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health alert: The risk of health effects is increased for everyone.
Maroon	Hazardous	301 and higher	Health warning of emergency conditions: everyone is more likely to be affected.

Power Outages

- Heat and the risk of wildfires can lead to planned power outages. Utility companies in Washington are beginning to utilize Public Safety Power Shutoffs when red-flag warnings and wildfires pose a threat to power infrastructure. Notifications from the utility provider are expected.
- Have a plan for refrigerated medications and electronic medical devices.
- Sign up for alerts with your utility provider and register life-sustaining medical equipment with them to put you on a higher priority notification and restoration list.

Type	Ideal Timeframe	Notification message	Typical audiences and channels
Watch	48-72 hours	PSPS power outage is possible	• Emergency and community response partners • Critical facilities
Warning	24-48 hours	PSPS power outage is possible based on current weather forecast	• Medical Life Support customers (phone call) • Potential impacted customers (automated notification) • Website and outage map • Opt-in notifications • Media and social media channels
Probable	12 hours	PSPS power outage is probable in your area at [date/time]. Please take steps to prepare	• All audiences • Webpage and outage map • Media and social media
Imminent	1-4 hours	PSPS power outage is scheduled to start in your area at [date/time]. Please take steps to prepare	• All audiences/channels
Initiated/ Updates	0 hours and every 12 hours	Your power has been shut off. [Status update information]	• All audiences/channels • Estimated time of restoration kept up to date on outage map.
Restoration started/ occurring	After weather "all clear" and every 12 hours	We are working to restore your power. Check the Outage Map for estimated time of restoration.	• All audiences/channels • Estimated time of restoration kept up to date on outage map.
Power Restored	When power restoration has been completed	Your power has been restored	• All audiences/channels
Canceled	As needed	The PSPS power outage has been canceled due to improving environmental conditions.	• All audiences/channels

Spokane Fires: Old Trails, Fairview, and Autumn Lane



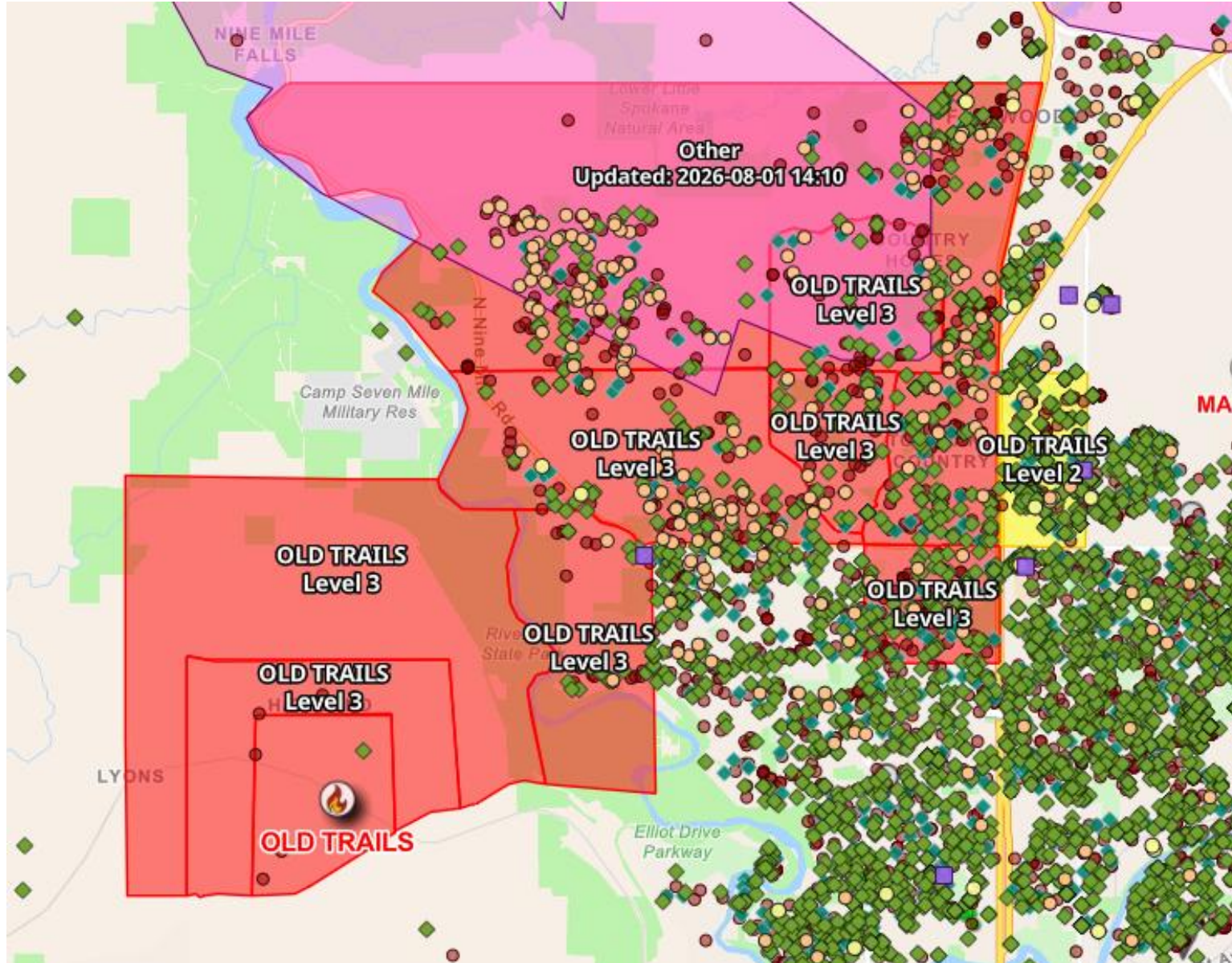
DSHS Saturday, August 1 noon – 3:54 pm

Old Trails Fire

- Created in Watch Duty on August 1 at 12:05 pm
- Local evacuations started at 12:11 pm
- Level 3 evacuations started at 12:24 pm
- Level 3 evacuation area expanded at 12:56 pm
- Level 3 evacuation area expanded at 1:13 pm
- Level 3 evacuation area expanded at 2:46 pm
- Level 2 evacuation area added at 3:08 pm
- Level 3 evacuation area expanded at 3:54 pm

Saturday, August 1 at 4:30 pm

Old Trails Fire





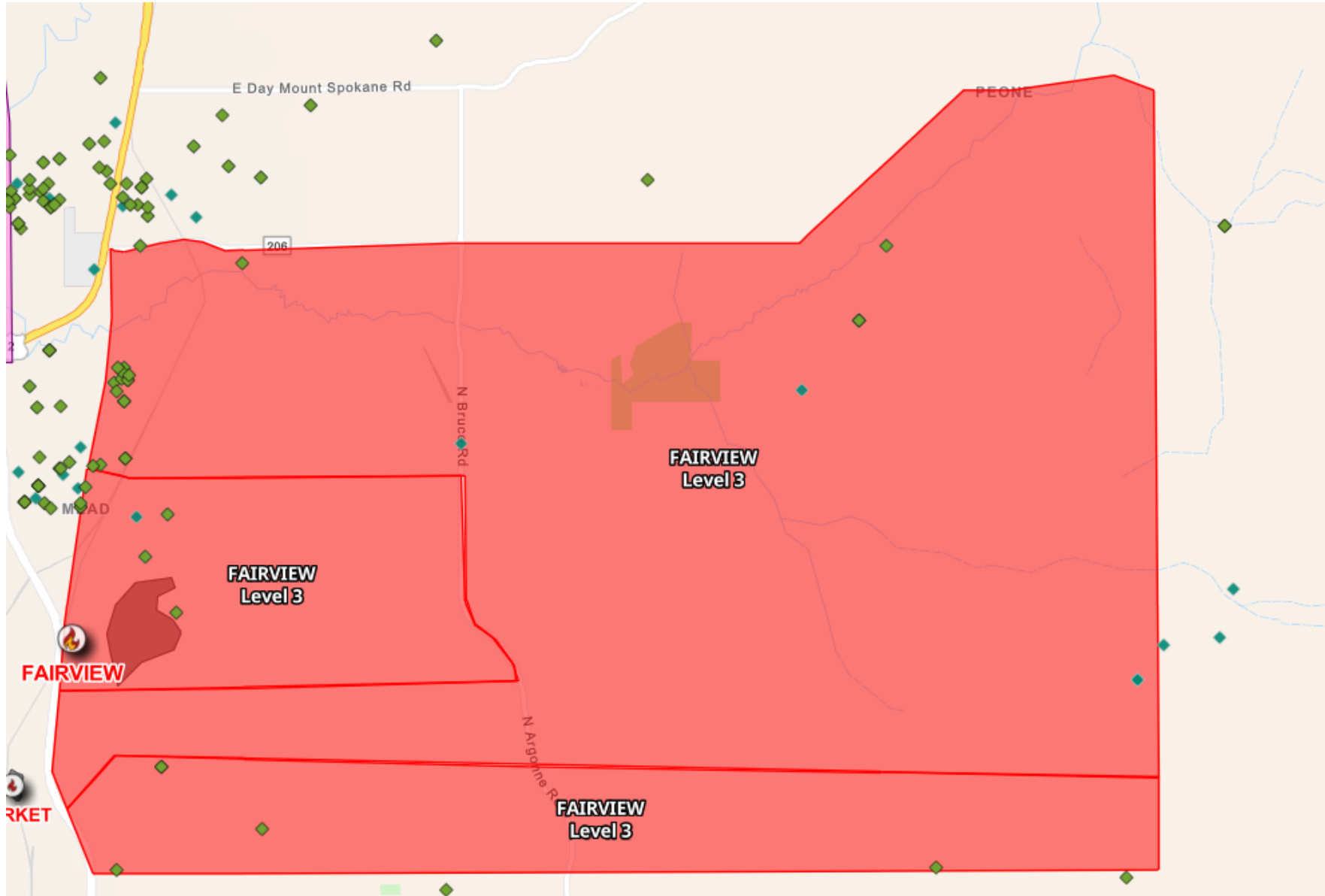
DSHS Saturday, August 1 2:20 – 6:38 pm

Fairview Fire

- Created in Watch Duty on August 1 at 2:20 pm as 1 acre vegetation fire
- Level 3 evacuation started at 2:27 pm
- Level 3 evacuation area expanded at 2:41 pm
- Level 3 evacuation area expanded at 5:27 pm
- Level 3 evacuation area expanded at 5:42 pm
- Level 3 evacuation area expanded at 6:14 pm
- Level 3 evacuation area expanded at 6:38 pm

Saturday, August 1 at 6:30 pm

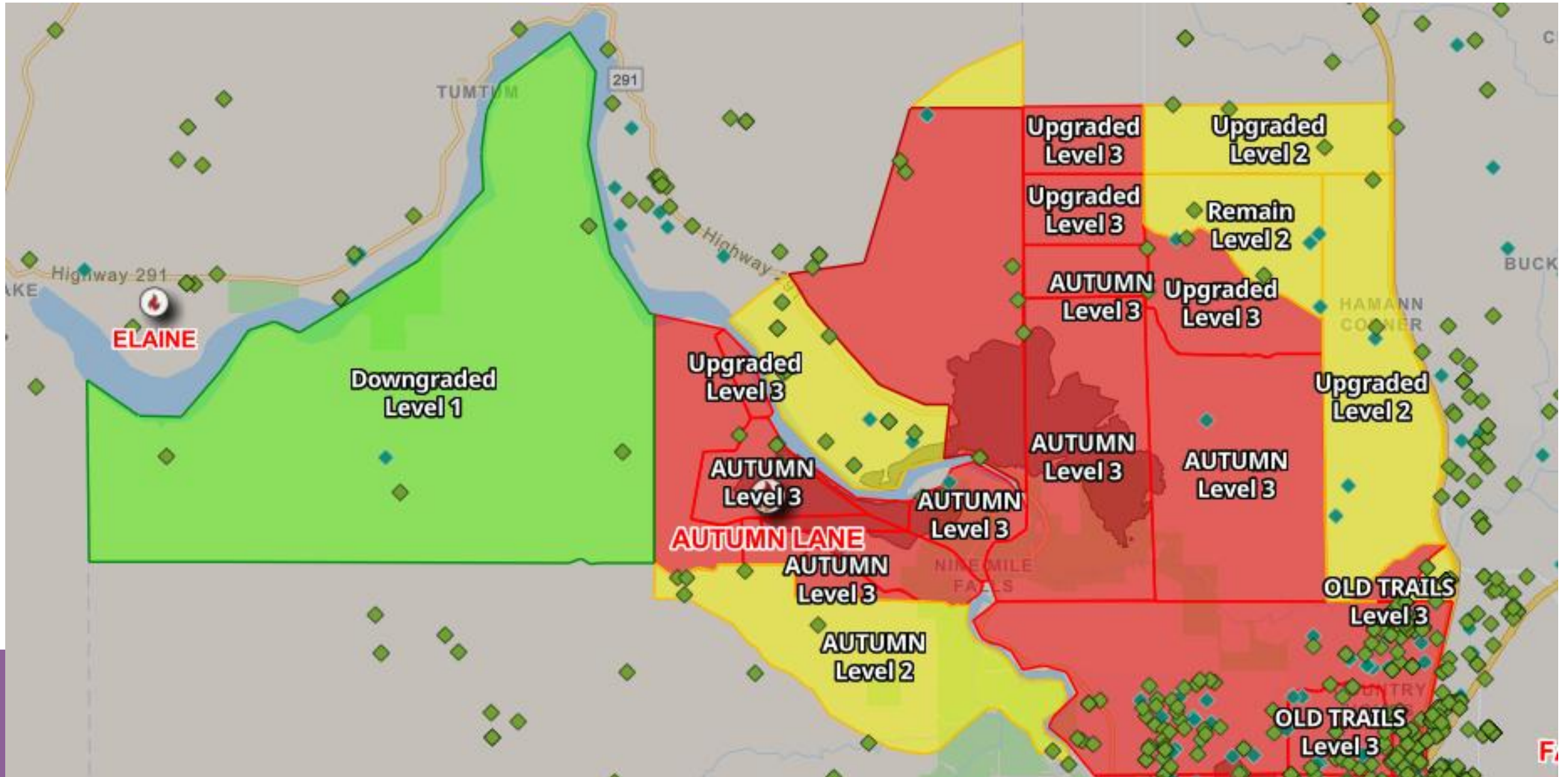
Fairview Fire



Saturday August 1 Autumn Lane Fire

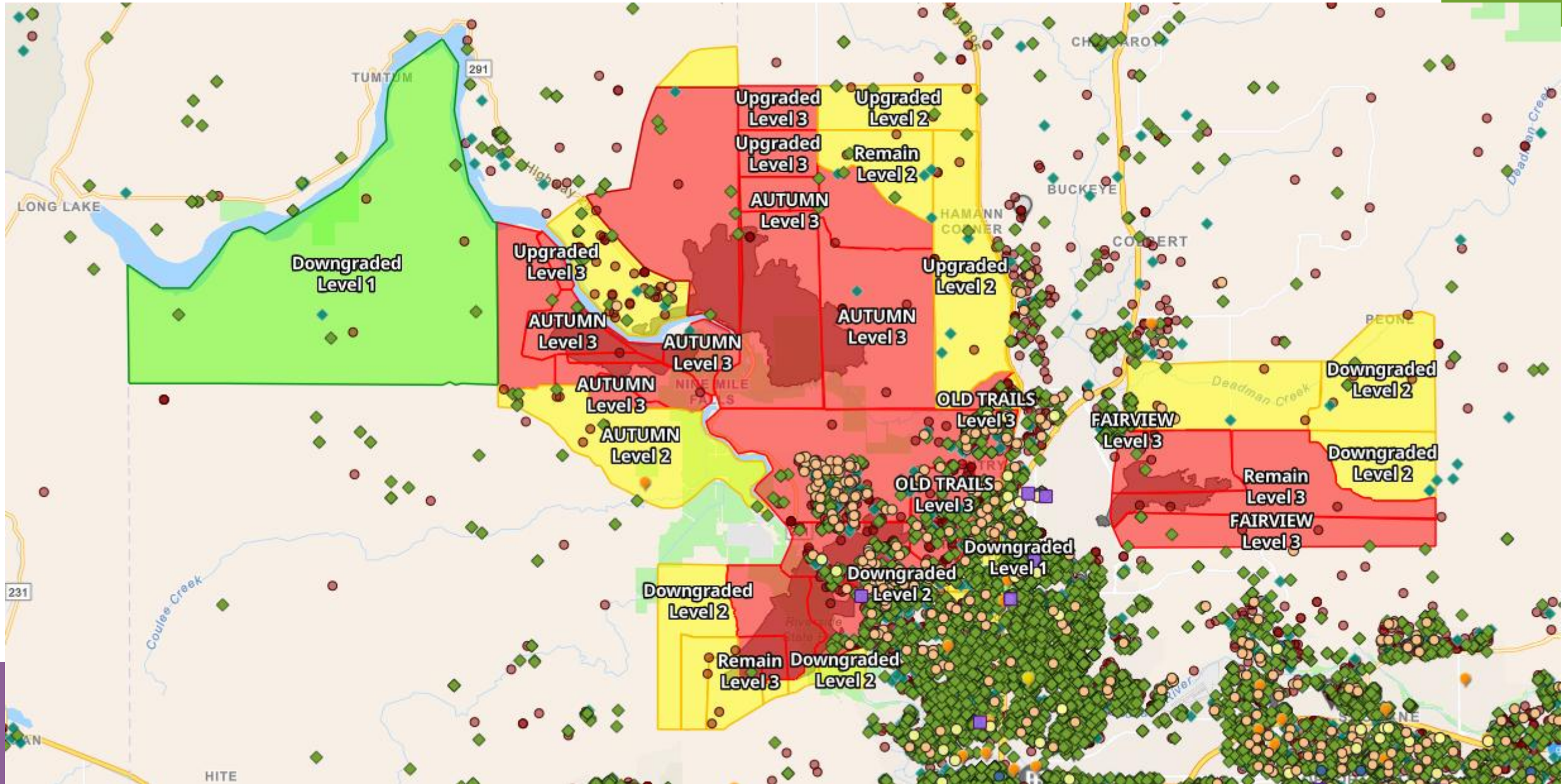
- Created in Watch Duty on August 1 at 3:56 pm as 10 acre vegetation fire
- Level 3 evacuation started at 4:22 pm
 - Level 3 evacuation area expanded at 6:02 pm
 - Level 3 evacuation area expanded at 6:29 pm
 - Level 3 evacuation area expanded at 8:21 pm
 - Level 3 evacuation area expanded at 8:39 pm
 - Level 3 evacuation area expanded at 8:50 pm
 - Level 3 evacuation area expanded at 10:10 pm
 - Level 3 evacuation area expanded at 3:59 am (Aug. 2)
- Level 1 evacuation started at 4:40 pm
- Level 2 evacuation started at 4:48 pm
 - Level 2 evacuation area expanded at 10:17 pm
 - Level 2 evacuation area added at 11:09 pm

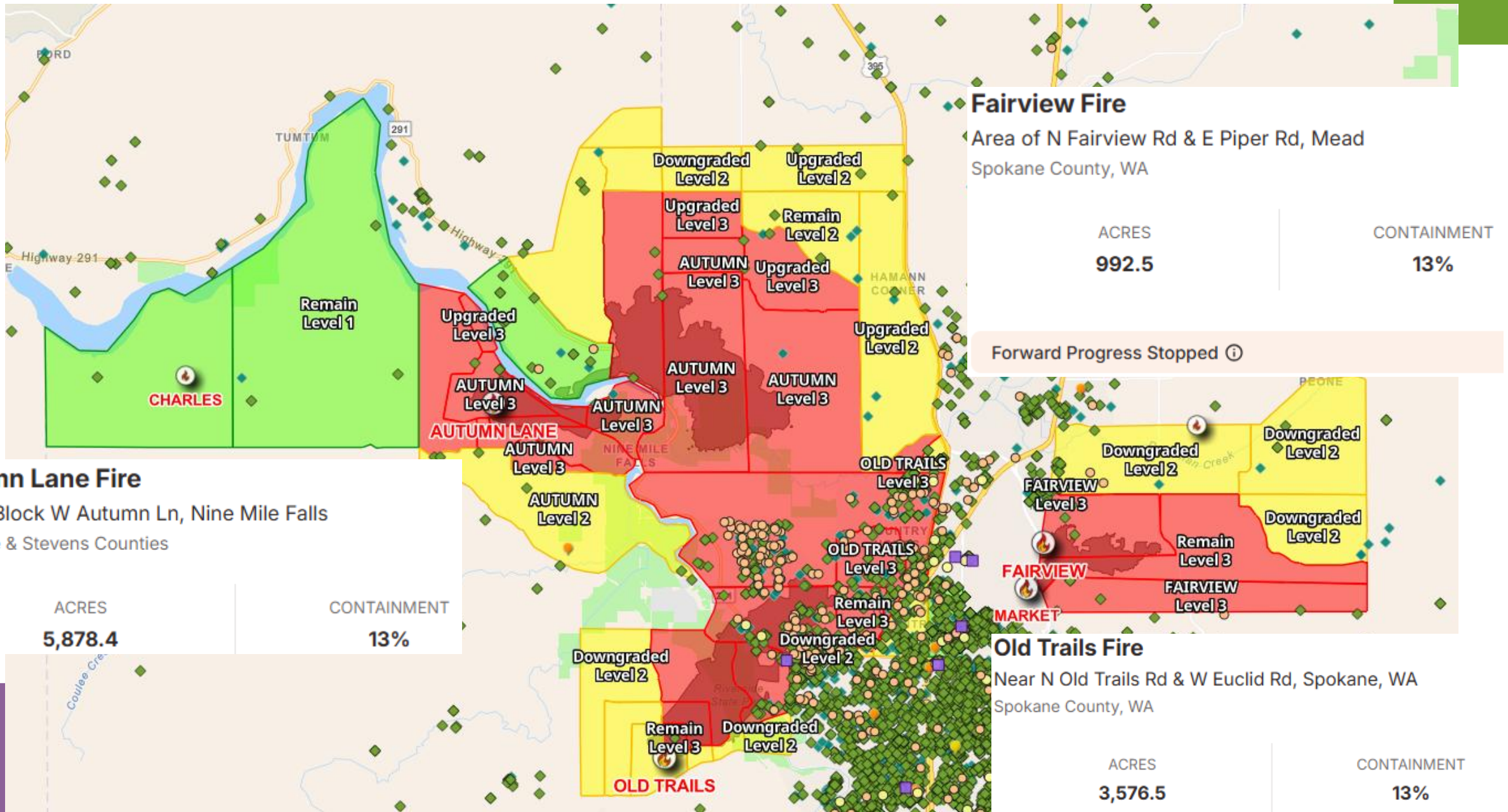
Monday, August 3 at 11:00 am Autumn Lane Fire





DSHS Tuesday, August 4 at 4:30 pm





DSHS Sunday, August 9 at 8:15 pm

Autumn Lane Fire

14800 Block W Autumn Ln, Nine Mile Falls
Spokane & Stevens Counties

ACRES

5,781.9

CONTAINMENT

73%

Fairview Fire

Area of N Fairview Rd & E Piper Rd, Mead
Spokane County, WA

ACRES

992.5

CONTAINMENT

53%

Forward Progress Stopped ⓘ

Old Trails Fire

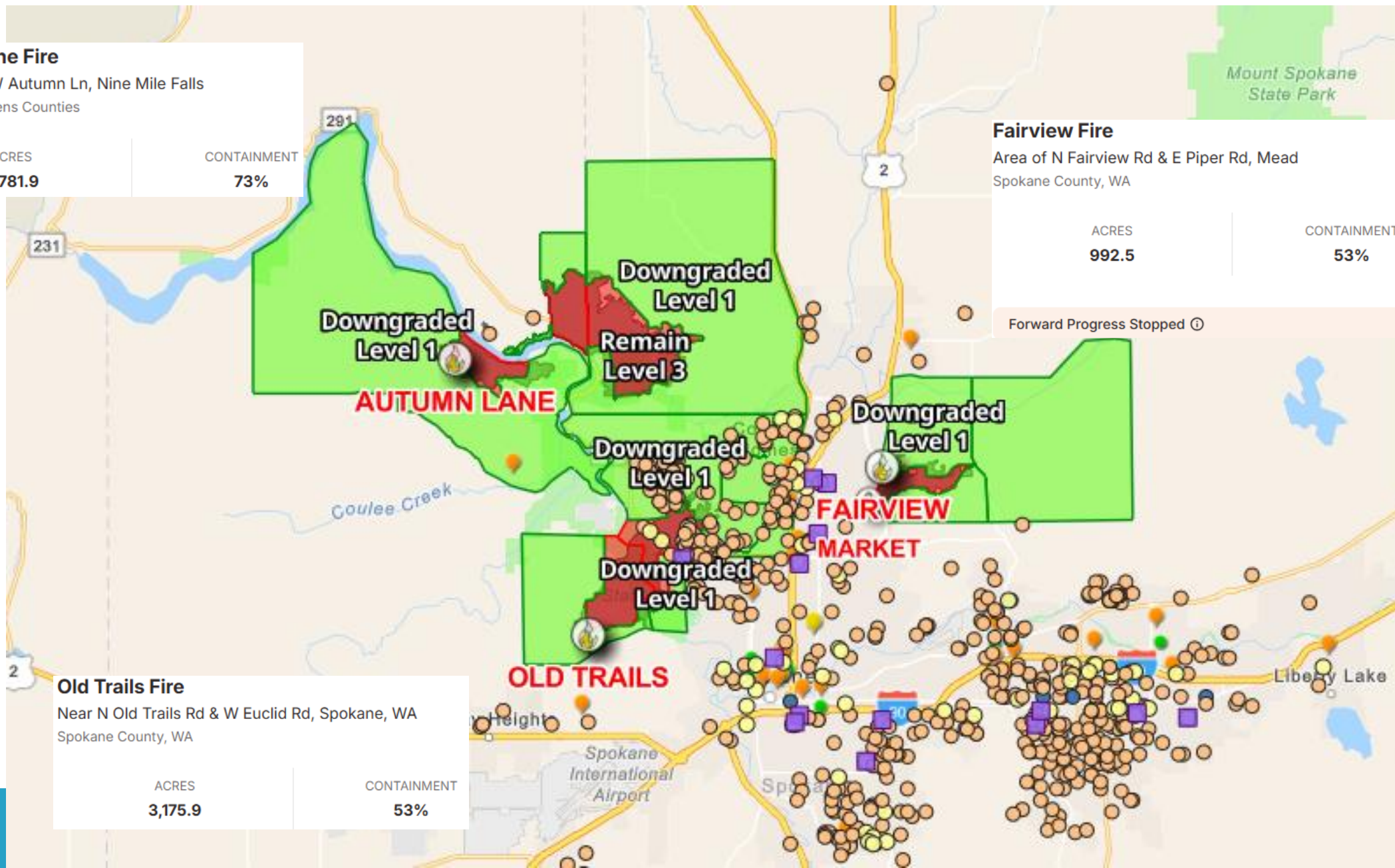
Near N Old Trails Rd & W Euclid Rd, Spokane, WA
Spokane County, WA

ACRES

3,175.9

CONTAINMENT

53%



DSHS Monday, August 10 at 7:41 pm

Autumn Lane Fire

14800 Block W Autumn Ln, Nine Mile Falls
Spokane & Stevens Counties

ACRES
5,764

CONTAINMENT
89%

Fairview Fire

Area of N Fairview Rd & E Piper Rd, Mead
Spokane County, WA

ACRES
992.5

CONTAINMENT
97%

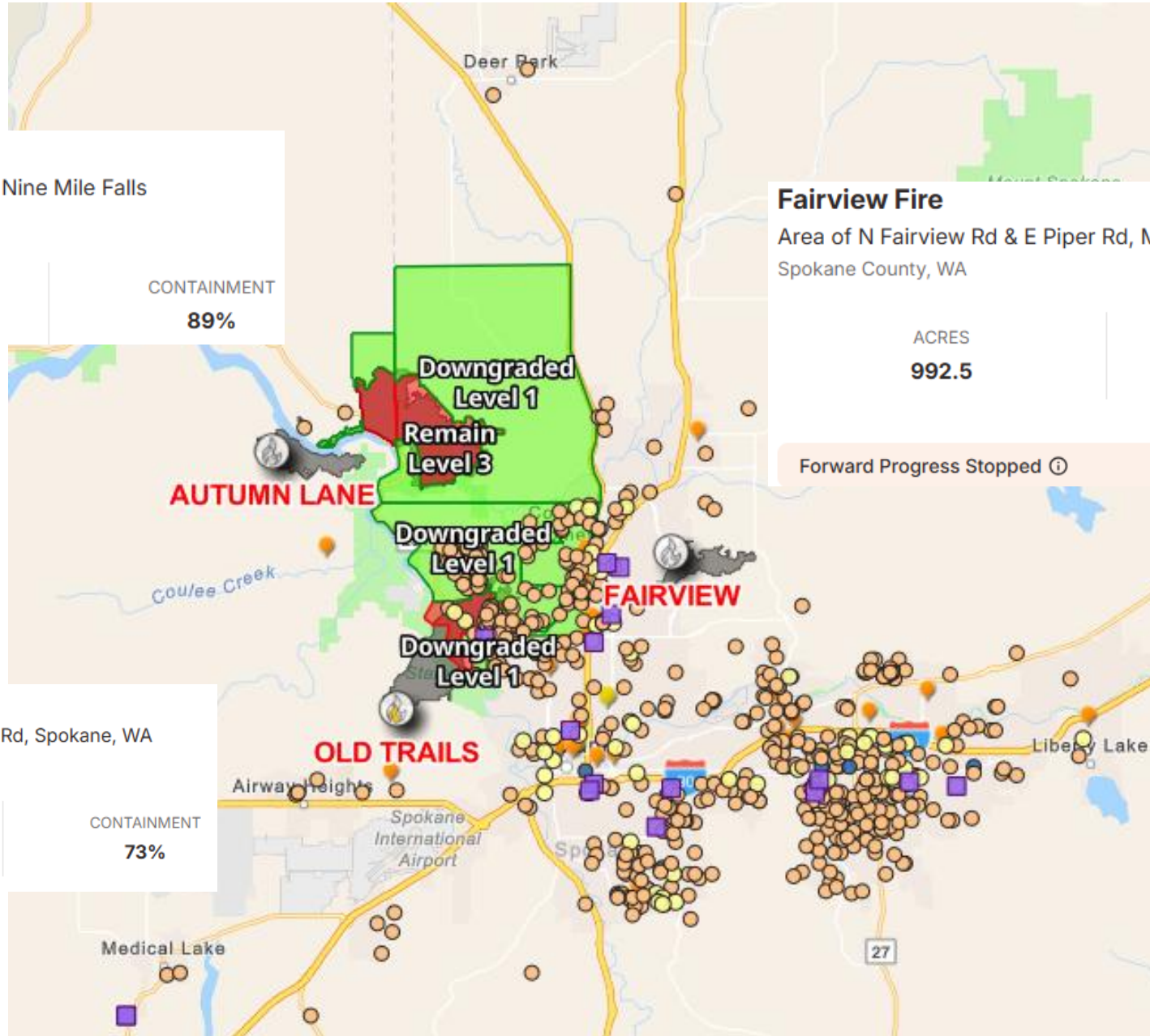
Forward Progress Stopped ⓘ

Old Trails Fire

Near N Old Trails Rd & W Euclid Rd, Spokane, WA
Spokane County, WA

ACRES
3,175.9

CONTAINMENT
73%





Tuesday, August 11 at 6:30 pm
ALL EVACUATION ORDERS LIFTED



14800 Block W Autumn Ln, Nine Mile Falls
Spokane & Stevens Counties

ACRES
5,764

CONTAINMENT

89%

Old Trails Fire

Near N Old Trails Rd & W Euclid Rd, Spokane, WA
Spokane County, WA

ACRES
3,175.9

CONTAINMENT

73%



Area of N Fairview Rd & E Piper Rd, Mead
Spokane County, WA

ACRES
992.5

CONTAINMENT

97%

Forward Progress Stopped ⓘ



Long-Term Care Facilities Impacts

Number of Evacuated Facilities/type	Number /type of facility burned (unable to return to)	Number of residents/ clients Evacuated
• NH-1 • ALF-6 • AFH-177 • CCRSS-10 Providers	• NH-0 • ALF-0 • AFH-2	• NH-110 • ALF-291 • AFH-609 • CCRSS-63

- The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) impacts to in-home clients:
 - Old Trails Fire: 1,418 (773 in level 3 and 645 in level 2 which turned to level 3)
 - Fairview Fire: 39
 - Autumn Lane Fire: 161
- The AAA contacted all impacted clients to determine their status and any needs. They contacted evacuated in-home clients in shelters to make sure they had the care and support they need.

Home and Community Living Administration Response Activities

- Staff attempted to contact all long-term care facilities in level 3 evacuation areas for Old Trails, Fairview, and Autumn Lane Fires on 8/1/26
- Staff worked the week of 8/3 in coordination with contact all long-term care facilities in level 3 evacuation areas to determine their status, where they evacuated, and how many residents
- The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) attempted to contact all in-home clients that were in the level 3 evacuation areas to determine if they evacuated, if they need support, and their status.

Home and Community Living Administration Response Activities

- Worked with the local hospitals in Spokane, the Northwest Healthcare Response Network, and the AAA to help move evacuee non-acute long-term care residents from shelters and hospitals back to long-term care facilities
- DSHS and the AAA supported the Disaster Assistance Center in Spokane with a resource tables
- Issued flexibilities through the Governor's Proclamation for assisted living and adult family homes for emergency admissions and capacity
- Worked to get federal waivers in place for long-term care facilities

Personal Preparedness

Personal Preparedness

- Do you have an emergency plan for your home?
- Do you have a communications plan for your family?
- Have you practiced your plan?
- Do you have emergency supplies and have you checked them lately?
- Do you have go-bags packed?
- Did you include go-bags for your kids and pets?
- Do you have livestock and a plan for them?
- Do you know where you will go if you have to evacuate?
- Do you have a plan for family reunification?

Personal Preparedness: Make A Plan

- Put a plan together by discussing the following questions with your family, friends, or household to start your emergency plan:
 - How will you receive emergency alerts and warnings?
 - What is your shelter plan?
 - What is your evacuation route?
 - What is your family/household communication plan?
- Consider and document specific needs in your household such as dietary, medical, cultural, and religious



Personal Preparedness: Emergency Supply Kit

Basic Emergency Supply Kit could include the following:

- Food and Water
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries
- Flashlight
- First Aid Kit
- Whistle
- Dust Mask
- Plastic Sheeting, Scissors, and Duct Tape
- Moist towelette, garbage bags, and plastic ties
- Wrench or pliers
- Manual can opener
- Local maps
- Cellphone with chargers and backup battery



- **Additional Items:**
- Soap, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes
- Prescription and over-the-counter medications
- Cash
- Sleeping bag or warm blankets
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Comfort items: games, puzzles, books, etc.

Personal Preparedness: Test Your Plan



Test your plan at least annually to:

- Make sure it still meets the needs of your household
- Make sure everyone knows how to respond in each type of identified emergency
- Make sure everyone knows who the emergency contacts are and how to contact them

❖ Participation in the annual Washington Great Washington ShakeOut Drill is a great way to practice for an earthquake



The Great Washington ShakeOut Drill

- **October 15, 2026 at 10:15 a.m.**
- Annual international earthquake exercise: Drop! Cover! Hold On!
- If you live or work in a coastal area, ShakeOut day is also a great time to practice tsunami evacuation routes
- Register to participate:
<https://www.shakeout.org/washington/register>



Resources

Wildfires

<https://app.watchduty.org/>
<https://www.ready.gov/wildfires>
<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/945/Preparedness>

Air Quality

- <https://wasmoke.blogspot.com/>
- <https://www.airnow.gov/aqi/aqi-basics/>
- <https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/air-quality/smoke-fires>

Weather

<https://app.watchduty.org/>

Power Outages

- <https://www.ready.gov/power-outages>
- <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/eremo/wa-public-safety-power-shutoffs/>
- <https://deptofcommerce.app.box.com/s/07dhiz2m75eo21xvl6helqzg7194c7vk/file/1933761764527>



DSHS

WASHINGTON STATE
**Department of Social
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