

BELFAIR HERALD

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House, brush fire on SR106 draws large response

By Adam Rudnick
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No residents were injured last week in a garage and house fire that spread across state Route 106 and up a steep hillside, causing about a five-hour road closure west of Belfair. Two firefighters sustained minor injuries, and a resident helping crews was taken to the hospital and subsequently released.

According to a social media post by North Mason Regional Fire Authority, more than 30 emergency personnel responded about 4:15 April 15 to a garage fire in the 14700 block of state Route 106, just west of Happy Hollow Grocery Store.

The cause of the fire was still under investigation as of Tuesday. Beau Bakken, chief of North Mason Regional Fire Authority, said the investigation will take some time due to the size of the fire.

"The investigation has yet to determine an estimate on loss either," Bakken wrote in an email.

Bystanders and residents assisted and helped with traffic control as firefighters from

Mason County Fire Districts 3, 6, 11, Central Mason Fire/EMS and Central Kitsap Fire and Rescue extinguished the fire.

A woman providing assistance was transported to Mason General Hospital for complications from smoke inhalation. The resident inhaled smoke as she knocked on doors to evacuate residents from the two homes that were on fire, Bakken said.

Additional details about the firefighters weren't available.

The original house fire spread to a neighboring house and caused "significant damage," according to the post. Another nearby home experienced minimal damage.

The fire jumped state Route 106 and caused several brush fires on the opposite side of the road. Those fires were fueled by 25-plus mph winds from across Hood Canal, according to North Mason Regional Fire Authority.

"The fire made its (way) 50 feet up into the trees and into a steep and difficult to access hillside," Bakken wrote.

State Department of Natural Resource crews worked through the night, using a water-dropping helicopter to douse hot spots.




Crews fight a garage and house fire April 15 near state Route 106 in Belfair. Photo courtesy of North Mason Regional Fire Authority



Roundabout in progress

On Sunday, traffic flows through a partially constructed roundabout on state Route 3 just north of downtown Belfair. Herald photo by Justin Johnson

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