

*For Immediate Release—June 28, 2024*



## **Donations being accepted for families after fire destroys 17 structures, including 11 homes, on Yakama reservation**

**TOPPENISH, Wash.**—The Yakama Nation has opened a bank account to accept monetary donations for families affected by the Slide Ranch fire near White Swan.

Monetary donations can be made at any KeyBank location, payable to: “White Swan Donation”. Monetary donations are also being accepted at the Yakama Nation Department of Revenue at [401 Fort Road](#) in Toppenish (room 205).

Seventeen structures, including 11 homes, were destroyed; numerous families remained evacuated from their homes. The fire, which began on June 22, flared again Wednesday, causing a second evacuation for an already stressed community. It is now at 75% containment. As of Friday morning, fire and power crews are still working on the scene, and risk remains high.

“We are grateful that no one was hurt, but the families whose homes were damaged or completely destroyed by this fire have had their lives upended, and they’ll need financial support to rebuild,” said Yakama Nation Chairman Gerald Lewis. “The Yakama Nation will continue to find ways to support families during this difficult time.”

The Yakama Nation has offered rooms at the Legends Casino Hotel and other area hotels for families who were forced to evacuate their homes, as well as fuel cards courtesy of Yakamart and Yakama Forest Products. The Tribe is also offering emergency assistance to tribal members through its Human Services department.

“The Yakama Nation is grateful to our staff, fire and power crews, partners and the number of businesses and volunteers who have come out in full force to ensure our families are safe, fed and sheltered,” Chairman Lewis said. “It truly is a reminder of how special our community is.”

“We also send deep gratitude to the community members who sprang into action to organize immediate, impactful relief efforts,” Chairman Lewis said. “You made a difference in people’s lives as they begin recovering.” Yakama Nation is now asking people to donate to the official initiative at KeyBank to maximize the value and efficiency of helping those affected by the fire.

Information and updates on efforts will be posted [here](#).

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Contact:  
Elizabeth Sanchey, Emergency Response PIO  
Yakama Nation  
509-945-2939  
[ws\\_fire@yakama.com](mailto:ws_fire@yakama.com)