



PUBLIC NOTICE & PRESS RELEASE

July 27, 2026

FROM: Yakama Nation Tribal Council
THRU: Tribal Council Executive Board
SUBJECT: State of Emergency Declaration – T-139-26 – Signal Peak and Ransier Fires

YAKAMA NATION TRIBAL COUNCIL DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY IN RESPONSE TO GROWING WILDFIRES IMPACTING THE WHITE SWAN COMMUNITY

TOPPENISH, WA — The Executive Board of the Yakama Nation Tribal Council, acting under authority delegated by the Treaty of 1855 and Tribal Council Resolution T-10-61, has officially issued Resolution No. T-139-26, declaring a State of Emergency for the White Swan Community and surrounding impacted areas on the Yakama Reservation.

This declaration comes in direct response to the *Signal Peak Fire* and the *Ransier Fire*, which originated on July 24, 2026, and July 26, 2026, respectively. Driven by high winds and extremely dry vegetation, these rapidly spreading wildfires have burned more than 3,000 acres to date. Emergency evacuations have been initiated across the White Swan Community and nearby areas. The scale and speed of these fires have caused community displacement and placed severe strain on local emergency response capacity and firefighting personnel.

Resolution Summary and Key Directives

1. *Official State of Emergency:* Formally declared for the White Swan Community and all surrounding affected areas on the Yakama Reservation.
2. *Call for Intergovernmental Support:* Requests immediate, coordinated emergency response, recovery assistance, and long-term rehabilitation support from our brother and sister Native Nations, the United States Government, and the State of Washington.
3. *Federal & State Agency Requests:* Request that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the State of Washington assist by:
 - Deploying wildland strike teams and maintaining emergency mobilization.
 - Issuing corresponding state emergency declarations.
 - Allocating financial assistance to mitigate community and structural losses.

Our thoughts are with all those impacted by the Signal Peak Fire and Ransier Fire. The Yakama Nation Tribal Council remains dedicated to protecting the lives, safety, cultural resources, and lands of the Yakama Nation and its people. Further updates regarding emergency response operations, shelter resources, and evacuation orders will be provided as conditions develop. Any questions from impacted persons and entities regarding this notice may be directed by email to WhiteSwanFire@yakama.com.