



Washington State Ferries



Washington State Ferries Weekly Update



Aug. 28, 2015

This week:

- Testing in Mukilteo finds little creosote in air
- Motorcycles to converge on Vashon this weekend
- Drones and ferries in the news
- Lifesaving award for *Tokitae* crew
- Customer compliment

Testing in Mukilteo finds little creosote in air

Last week I shared our response to community concerns about the smell of creosote as crews remove an old pier to make way for our new multimodal ferry terminal in Mukilteo. This week we received the results from a third party air quality test, which confirmed that the creosote levels in the air are well below limits considered harmful to human health. We understand odors can be a nuisance to project neighbors and I commend our team for acting quickly to address these concerns. In order to reduce odors, crews covered the barge where the timber piles are temporarily stored before they are transferred offsite and installed a large water mister (pictured below). Visit the [project website](#) to read FAQs about the odor issue and to view our site camera with time lapse photos of construction progress. Project staff also established a hotline and will distribute construction alert flyers to provide neighbors with the latest information as construction progresses. We appreciate your patience as we help make Puget Sound cleaner.



Motorcycles to converge on Vashon this weekend

We anticipate seeing thousands of motorcycles on Vashon Island this Sunday, Aug. 30, as part of the annual Isle of Vashon vintage motorcycle ride. To expedite processing through the tollbooth, all ferry riders are encouraged to pre-purchase their ferry tickets online or at a kiosk at any terminal. Due to construction at the Vashon terminal, extra caution is advised when driving through the construction zone.

Drones and ferries in the news

I'm often surprised by the unique challenges of operating a ferry system. Recently, we've had reports of drones being flown over and near our ferries, so I thought I'd share some information and recent [news coverage](#). Earlier this summer, one of our captains reported that a drone was posing a navigational hazard as he landed at the Anacortes terminal. The captain reported that the drone flew just feet away and directly in front of the pilothouse during the landing. Terminal staff was able to locate the drone operator who is now the subject of a U.S. Coast Guard investigation. It is not always illegal to fly a drone near ferry facilities or vessels, but it is against the law to interfere with the navigation and operation of our vessels. We are one of the safest ferry systems in the world, and we work hard every day to stay that way. That's why this incident and others like it, is of particular concern to me.

Lifesaving award for *Tokitae* crew

I want to express my deepest thanks and admiration to the *Tokitae* crew that provided assistance to a vessel in distress south of the Mukilteo terminal on Aug. 8. After a request by the U.S. Coast Guard to respond to the vessel, the crew promptly readied the *Tokitae's* rescue boat, lowered it in less than ideal weather conditions and made their way to the vessel in distress. Crew members made the quick decision to take the vessel's occupants aboard the

rescue boat and return to the *Tokitae*. The situation intensified once the occupants were taken off the distressed vessel when it swamped and began taking on water rapidly. Captain Arno Broekhoven's and the crew's decisions and judgment during this stressful situation surely helped alleviate a potential loss of life and property. Special recognition goes to Able-bodied Seamen Todd Dussault and Connor Murphy who received WSF Lifesaving Awards for their performance that day.

Customer compliment

Here's a compliment from a customer who described her experience with two of our crew members as an "amazing act of kindness."

During my crossing my truck's heating coil went out and spewed radiator fluid everywhere. [Able-bodied Seamen Scott Grange and Ollie McCall] not only helped clean it up, but they popped the hood and helped me fix the problem. To say they went above and beyond doesn't even cover it. These men went out of their way to make sure I got home safely [...].

Lynne Griffith
Assistant Secretary WSDOT/Ferries Division

Hyperlinks within this email:

Mukilteo Multimodal Project: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/ferries/mukilteoterminal/multimodal/>

KIRO TV story on drones: <http://www.kirotv.com/videos/online/video-ferry-boat-captain-encounters-drone/vDZGhb/>

Weekly updates are available on the WSDOT Ferries Division website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly.

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