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Welcome to this issue of the Washington State Animal Response Team's monthly newsletter! Find out what the President has to say, what deployments we've been on, where the next meetings will be, and where we'll be with upcoming events. [View this email in your browser](#)



[www.washingtonsart.org](http://www.washingtonsart.org)

Helping Animals & Their Owners in Disasters

- [Northwest Breaks Record for Rainless Days, Triggering Multiple Wildfires](#)
- [Overheated Dog Wheeled Down Snow Lake](#)
- [Disaster Prep Spotlight Features WASART](#)
- [2017 Training dates](#)

In a large animal rescue, much of the more expensive equipment needs to be replaced for safety reasons.

It's only possible because of you.

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### General Meetings

**September 13, 2017**

[Shoreline Fire Department](#)

Station 61

17525 Aurora Avenue North  
Seattle, WA 98133

**December 13, 2017**

[King County Office of  
Emergency Management](#)

3511 NE 2nd Street

From The President

## Northwest Breaks Record for Rainless Days, Triggering Multiple Wildfires



*Satellite image of Washington state with smoke covering most of the Puget Sound region. Image taken by the NASA Terra satellite and the MODIS instrument onboard.*

Northwest fire officials are saying that record-dry conditions, continued heat and incoming lightning storms threaten to worsen an already bad fire season.

So begins August, as more than two dozen fires are currently burning in Idaho, Oregon and Washington. The smoky air conditions from the wildfires in British

Renton, WA 98056

The General Meetings are held from **7 p.m. - 9 p.m.** The first hour is spent on WASART business and the final hour is a mini-training or discussion session on a subject of interest to members. And, of course, some social time, too. All General Meetings are open to the public and everyone is invited to attend.

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### Upcoming training

Register at

<http://bit.ly/WASART2017>

#### **Open House (repeat)(free) August 27, 2017**

10:00 - noon

Pierce County Office of  
Emergency Management  
2501 S. 35th Street  
Tacoma, WA

#### **Fundamentals (repeat) September 17, 2017**

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Valley Regional Fire Authority  
1101 D Street NE  
Auburn, WA 98002

#### **Animal Handling & Assessment (repeat)**

**October 1, 2017**

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location TBD

#### **Practical Communications Workshop (repeat)**

**October 7, 2017**

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Fort Steilacoom Park  
Lakewood, WA

#### **Annual Exercise**

**October 14, 2017**

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Enumclaw Expo Center  
45224 284th Ave SE  
Enumclaw, WA 98022

Columbia actually kept temperatures down and slowed the spread of fires in Washington, but we're expecting Eastern Washington to experience above average temperatures in the coming days and weeks.

Recently, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported that July was the fifth driest on record for Washington, dating back to 1885. This could be a dangerous fire season here in the Northwest, and WASART is certainly prepared to help if necessary.

Please do take some time to ensure that your emergency supplies, records and escape plans are current and readily available (for you and your animals). Your local emergency managers are great resources for information on sheltering plans, evacuation assistance and other pertinent details you may need during an emergency in your area. Here is a great link from the Military Department on preparedness. It has further links for the counties and partners in WA: [Preparedness](#)

As always, stay safe and look out for each other!

*Shawndra Michell*

President

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## Overheated Dog Wheeled Down Snow Lake

### Outreach Events

No registration required.  
Stop by and say hello!

**August 26, 2017**

[Barktoberfest](#)

9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Roegner Park

601 Oravetz Road SE

Auburn, WA

**September 9, 2017**

[Doggiestock](#)

Noon - 6:00 p.m.

Toll Gate Farm Park

1300 W. North Bend Way

North Bend, WA

**September 30, 2017**

[Maple Valley Community  
Emergency Preparedness Fair](#)

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Rock Creek Elementary School

25700 Maple Valley-Black

Diamond Road SE

Maple Valley, WA 98038

**September 30, 2017**

[Peninsula Emergency  
Preparedness Fair](#)

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Gig Harbor High School

5101 Rosedale Street NW

Gig Harbor, WA 98332

Did you know we're often available to talk to your group about WASART or disaster prep?



*Hana, an overheated German Shepherd, catches a ride down the Snow Lake Trail after overheating near the top.*

On July 22nd, we received a call for a dog in need of assistance near the top of Snow Lake Trail, along the I-90 corridor east of North Bend, WA. We put out a call for our volunteers and requested the loan of a litter wheel from King County Explorer Search and Rescue ([ESAR](#)), since the trail is steep and WASART did not have one. (With a generous donation from a WASART volunteer, we now have our own wheel. –Editor)

[King County Search and Rescue's](#) Rapid Alpine Deployment team (RAD) brought the equipment to the trailhead and began packing it up the approximately 4 miles to the location of the dog while other responders drove up to the trailhead.

As the responders arrived at trailhead, we received another call for a horse in a ditch in Auburn, WA, about 60 miles away. The responders split into two teams. The dog team grabbed some gear from the van while the horse team departed for Auburn.

The trail winds uphill nearly the 3 miles of the route and increases in steepness and rockiness as it goes up. Along the way hikers we passed mentioned seeing the dog, who rested with her



### Mission Statement

To help animals and their owners through disaster preparedness, education, and emergency response.



head on a jacket.

We met the RAD team at the dog's location where they had the litter already assembled. Hana, a German Shepherd, waited with her owner at her side.

We checked her over and took her temperature. Hikers with spare water had helped cool her by pouring water on her as they passed on the way down. The RAD team had deployed ice packs to help cool her, and someone had donated a frozen Capri Sun packet. Everyone had done a good job of cooling her. Her temperature was acceptable and she was able to keep water down.

We fitted her with a harness and a muzzle and transferred her onto the litter. Strapped securely in the litter, now equipped with the borrowed wheel, she was ready to be carried out. The last of our immediate responders arrived at this point, including a responder from Pierce County Explorer Search and Rescue ([PCESAR](#)). He had been hiking with a WASART member and requested to permission from Pierce County to help. (Thanks, Pierce County!)

With the last of the team assembled, and the dog ready to go, we headed down the rocky path. Managing a litter down a rocky path with switchbacks can be difficult. The wheel for the litter helps to carry the weight. A person at the head and one at the rear help stabilize it. Another person behind holds a tagline to act as a backup brake, and one more farther in front of the litter the calls out rocks, roots, notches, and other hazards of the trail. When a trail got too rough to roll, the litter was handed down to waiting responders. Frequent stops were called to swap out responders as arms and eyes get tired.

ESAR command (King County SAR Deputy Pete Linde) kindly sent more responders up to help, so we had fresh help down the trail, including one

individual from Seattle Mountain Rescue ([SMR](#)).

Hana rode quietly in the litter, watching the activity around her and accepting help.

We got the litter safely down and met up with the rest of Hana's family. Transferring her into their waiting car, her owners took her immediately to an emergency vet. We're told she spent several nights there before being discharged to her people.

A big thanks to our friends at King County Search and Rescue and Pierce County Search and Rescue for all your help and willingness to share skills and equipment!



*Hana's owner graciously sent us a photo of Hana post-hike once she was back from the vet and relaxing with her toys and family.*

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**Disaster Prep Spotlight Features  
WASART**





Local news station King 5 featured stories on disaster prep during the last week of July. They gave WASART a call for their segment about livestock preparedness. Check out co-founder [Greta Cook in the spotlight.](#)

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## 2017 Training dates

<b>2017 TRAINING</b>	<b>OPEN HOUSE</b> January 7, August 27th
	<b>FUNDAMENTALS</b> February 4, September 17
	<b>ANIMAL HANDLING &amp; ASSESSMENT</b> March 25th, October 1
	<b>EMERGENCY SHELTERING</b> April 22
	<b>TRANSPORT</b> May 13
	<b>TECHNICAL ANIMAL RESCUE</b> TDB
	<b>ANNUAL EXERCISE</b> October 21 (tentative)
	
	Sign up at <a href="http://bit.ly/WASART2017">http://bit.ly/WASART2017</a>

**Open House** – August 27th (no registration needed)

**Fundamentals** – September 17th (repeat)

**Animal Handling & Assessment** – October 1st (repeat)

**Communications Practice** – Oct 7

**Annual Exercise** – October 21st (tentative)

**Technical Rescue** – Monthly, contact the [Technical Rescue Chair](#) for info

## Register for 2017

You can register for 2017's trainings at <http://bit.ly/WASART2017>. Questions? Check

with [Training Director](#).

P.S. We have exemptions for veterinarians and search and rescue members. Check with the [Training Director](#) for details.

WASART NEWS is a publication of the Washington State Animal Response Team (WASART) published on or about the 15th of each month. WASART is an all-volunteer, 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. Mail us at: WASART, P.O. Box 21, Enumclaw, WA 98022.

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