



Statement from the Holden Village Board Regarding Wildfire Response

Holden prioritizing safety of Villagers and protection of the Village

August 5, 2026

Dear Holden Village Community,

You may have heard about the Little Giant Fire, which has currently burned over 70,000 acres in Central Washington. As of this moment, Holden Village is not under immediate threat from the fire. However, our Bed & Breakfast guests (and caretaker Roberta) have been safely evacuated. We are grateful for the cooperation and care shown by all involved.

While smoke from the current fire conditions is limiting helicopter travel in the Lake Chelan area, Holden has alternative routes we can use for both regular and emergency helicopter travel to and from the Village.

Given this year's heightened fire conditions, the environmental factors and the Village's lack of road access, we anticipate that the U.S. Forest Service and Chelan County will respond more aggressively to fire threats than in previous years, including issuing evacuation notices or orders earlier than might otherwise be expected.

The Board and Village leadership are actively planning, coordinating with public agencies, and advocating for the protection of Holden Village. At the same time, we are committed to following all lawful evacuation orders.

In our preparation calls with the U.S. Forest Service, it has been made clear that anyone who remains in or enters the Village in defiance of evacuation orders would jeopardize their own safety, the safety of others, and the Village's relationship with our public partners, including potential legal charges. We do not expect this to become necessary, but we believe it is important to be transparent about this information.

Rest assured, Holden staff have been preparing for this scenario over the course of the year. They have been taking proactive steps to ensure that, should it become necessary, they can vacate the valley in a way that prioritizes both safety and the long-term operational viability of this beloved place.

We continue to hold the Village, our neighbors, first responders, and all communities affected by wildfire in prayer. We trust that God accompanies us through times of uncertainty, calling us to care for one another with wisdom, hope, and courage. Thank you for your continued cooperation, support, and prayers as we navigate this season together.

You are welcome to direct questions to Claire Smith, president@holdenvillage.org

Sincerely,
Claire Smith (she/her or they/them), President
On behalf of the Holden Village Board of Directors

P.S. At the Board of Directors' June meeting, we elected several new officers and board members. Stay tuned for another announcement welcoming our new members to the Board.

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Over the course of 60 years, Holden Village has been transformed from a North Cascades copper mining town to a vibrant place of education, programming, and worship. Holden welcomes people of all ages to come and experience its rhythms, which inspire and equip travelers for a sustainable life of faith outside the Village.