

PRESS RELEASE

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Fire at Woodland Park Zoo

SEATTLE—At approximately 3:15 p.m. (PST) today, a fire was reported in the Night Exhibit, which has been closed since 2010. Seattle Fire Department responded and the zoo's Emergency Response Team responded.

Visitors were safely evacuated at 3:35 p.m. and the zoo closes at 4:00 in the winter. There were no staff or visitor injuries.

The zoo's WildLights holiday festival is canceled tonight and will re-open Friday night. The zoo will open Friday at 11:00 a.m.

There are early indications that no animals were harmed, however, it was later learned that six small turtles were in a hibernation chamber in the Night Exhibit building; their condition is unknown at this time.

The fire was contained at 4:30 p.m. The safety of the animals and guests is the zoo's number one priority. As a safety precaution, zoo staff retrieved all the animals from the adjacent Day Exhibit, which houses reptiles, amphibians and a tree kangaroo. Heat was lost in the building and these animals must be evacuated because they are temperature-sensitive.

The cause of the fire is unknown and Seattle Fire Department will monitor the site overnight.

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