



For Immediate Release

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Fire Information: Mary Stuever, Fire Information Officer  
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**August 16, 2015** 8:00 am

Office hours: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**Incident:** Wildland fire, lightning-caused on August 11<sup>th</sup>, fire reported on August 12, 2015  
**Location:** 12 miles southwest of Priest Lake, Idaho and 17 miles northwest of Newport, WA  
**Jurisdiction:** Colville & Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Washington Dept of Natural Resources  
**Incident Commander:** Ray Corral

**Current Size:** 5,761 acres  
**Strategy:** Full Suppression

**Containment:** 1%  
**Structures Threatened:** 1 residence;  
 2 structures

Aerial reconnaissance allowed fire managers to estimate acreage on the Tower Fire that represents fire growth during the last two days. Yesterday fire crews established an anchor on the southwest corner of the fire and will be continuing these dozer lines today on the south and west flanks of the fire. The fire management has also switched from the Newport Ranger District to a Type 3 Team from northern New Mexico. Plans are to combine this fire, the Baldy Fire, and several recent new starts into the Kaniksu Complex in the next few days.

**Current Resources:** The number of firefighters on the incident is **41**. Equipment includes: 2 dozers, 2 engines, and 1 water tender. Air support is limited based availability and priority.

**Special Messages/Closures:** A mandatory evacuation order has been issued for Browns Lake and South Skookum Campgrounds on the Newport Ranger District and for the North Skookum Campground (Washington DNR). No evacuations are ordered for the Priest Lake side of the fire.

Officials have closed a portion of the Newport Ranger District of the Colville National Forest due to the current Tower Fire. The closure limits any type of access for a rectangle that bounded on the north by the Mill Creek Road (Forest Road 1200-000) from Le Clerc Road to Pyramid Pass, on the west by the Colville-Idaho Panhandle National Forest Boundary, on the east by Pend Oreille River, and on the south by the section line one mile south of Township 34. Area visitors should be aware of adjacent closures on Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

Residents and recreationalists living in and/or visiting the area are encouraged to stay informed of the changing conditions. Multiple smaller fires are still burning in the area. Stage 2 Fire Restrictions are in place. Please see Inciweb for updated announcements <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4508/#>

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