

# North Star and Tunk Block Fire Information 509-826-7140



Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation



Colville Tribal EMS, Fire & Rescue



Okanogan & Ferry County Fire Districts 2,4,7,8,13 & 16



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF Natural Resources



Okanogan-Wenatchee & Colville National Forests



Bureau of Land Management Spokane District



Bureau of Indian Affairs Colville Agency



PNW Team 3, Ed Lewis, Incident Commander

## Fire Update – September 9, 2015 7:30 a.m. (PT)

Pacific Northwest Team 3 will Transition with California Team 5, who will take command of the North Star and Tunk Block Fires at 6:00 pm today. The Incident command post location at the Omak Stampede Grounds and the phone number for information remain unchanged.

**Yesterday's Activities:** Firefighters continued working to ensure that their containment lines were secure as the weather produced 0.02-0.06 inches of rain in the early morning on both the Tunk Block as well as the North Star Fire. The rain lasted until about noon.

Most heat on the Tunk Fire was in the eastern portion and that was reduced and contained by aviation. On the North Star Fire, machine work, as well as hand crews, mopped up along the eastern edge. The southern end was patrolled and is looking good. Firefighters are going direct in the western portion. A burnout operation of about 50 acres was successful in helping strengthen containment lines on the southeast corner.

A minor spot fire was controlled in the Tunk Block Fire yesterday.

**Today's Operations:** Burnout operations to secure firelines are a priority for today as fine fuels dry enough to meet the intended objectives. As temperatures rise and humidity levels drop, more active fire behavior is anticipated on the open flanks and smokes may be visible within the fire perimeter. Above 3,000 feet fine fuels, like grasses, will be slower to dry and the fire is expected to be less active at those higher elevations. Backing fire will be seen under forest canopy in the mid-slope areas.

There are now containment lines in place on the southwest portion of the North Star Fire. On the northwest portion crews will continue mopping-up and holding the line.

Last night's infrared flight detected of heat on the eastern perimeter of the Tunk Block fire and firefighters will continue with containment efforts along that flank.

**Weather:** The forecasted weather for today is 53-58 in ridges and 65-70 in the valleys. Minimum RH 25-35%. Up slope/Up valley winds 2-5MPH. High pressure is forecast to weaken Saturday, bringing some increased winds to the region.

**Evacuations/Closure Information:** Evacuation and closure information is dynamic and changes more frequently than this report is updated. For the most current evacuation information, please contact your closest Emergency Operations Center (EOC): Colville Tribal Emergency Services 509-634-2105, Okanogan County EOC (509) 422-7206, Ferry County EOC 509-775-3132. Highway closure information is available online: <http://www.wsdot.com/traffic/trafficalerts>.

National Forest Lands east of Tonasket and south of Highway 20 on the Tonasket Ranger District are closed. Colville Indian Reservation forest and recreational areas are closed within the fires.

Quick Facts Incident Summary	
Size	North Star Fire 210,027 ac. Tunk Block Fire 162,564 ac.
Fire Containment :	North Star Fire 40% Tunk Block Fire 70%
Incident Commander :	Ed Lewis, PNW Team 3
Resources on the Fire	Crews:45 Helicopters:16 Engines:116 Dozers: 25
Total Personnel	1,870
Jurisdiction	Okanogan & Ferry Co. Fire Districts 2,4,7,8,13 &16 Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation Bureau of Indian Affairs, Colville Agency Colville Fire EMS, Fire & Rescue Bureau of Land Management Washington State DNR Forest Service

### Additional Information



North Star Fire: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4524/>  
 Tunk Block Fire: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4598/>  
 Blog: <https://northstarandtunkblockfires.wordpress.com>  
 Twitter: @OkaWenNF  
 Facebook: North Star Fire

