

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 Department of Natural Resources



Okanogan-Wenatchee & Colville National Forests



Bureau of Land Management Spokane District



Bureau of Indian Affairs Colville Agency



CAIIMT 5, Mike Minton, Incident Commander

Fire Update – September 11, 2015 8:00 a.m. (PT)

Tunk Block Quick Facts	
Size	162,693 ac.
Containment:	75%
Resources on the Fire	Crews: 17 Helicopters: 4 Engines: 38 Dozers: 9
Total Pers	571

Tunk Block Fire: Good progress continued on the Tunk Block Fire Thursday as firefighters continued to secure existing handline to the north/northeast. With fire activity remaining calm, containment increased to 75% while mop-up, patrol continued and fireline repair began. Firefighters are pushing to complete and secure as much containment line as possible ahead of this weekend's predicted hot and dry weather.

North Star Fire: Strategic firing operations began on the northern perimeter in the Cornell Butte area south of Republic, to bring the fire slowly down to the containment line. The smoke generated from that work was quite visible in Republic on Thursday. Similar strategic firing was conducted west of Highway 21 and along the southwest perimeter, east of Hwy 155, where crews burned remaining fuels between the dozer line and the main fire. Firefighters will continue burning operations today, as well as begin building line by hand directly along the fire's edge around Barrett Butte.

North Star Quick Facts	
Size	211,356 ac.
Containment:	45%
Resources on the Fire	Crews: 37 Helicopters: 5 Engines: 73 Dozers: 16
Total Pers	1,317

Highway 21 is open but motorists are cautioned that there is significant fire activity and fire vehicle traffic, which can be hazardous. Please drive with caution and watch for both animals and fire traffic.

Damage assessment is still ongoing and the number of structures damaged and destroyed has not been confirmed. Okanogan County Emergency Management Services has an online Damage Assessment Form for people who have lost a primary residence in the fire. Go to <http://okanogandem.org/> or contact the Okanogan County EOC at 509-422-7206

Weather: Weather forecasters warn caution as warm temperatures and lower humidities return to the area beginning Friday. Temperatures into the upper 80s are expected in the lower elevations and fire activity is expected to increase. The warmer, drier weather will be a good test of the line that's contained.

Evacuations: Evacuation levels in the area along Highway 155 and much of the area south of Highway 20 are currently at Level 1 or 2. Highway 21, from McMann Creek south to Bridge Creek and the Moses Meadows area are at Level 2. For the most current evacuation information, please contact your closest Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Closures: 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 within the fires, are closed.

Additional Information



Tunk Block on Inciweb

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
 Northstarfire2015@gmail.com



North Star on Inciweb