

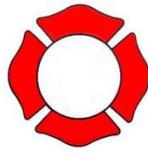
North Star and Tunk Block Fire Information 509-826-7140



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 1, Jerry McGowan, Incident Commander

Fire Update – September 15, 2015 8:00 a.m. (PT)

Tunk Block Quick Facts	
Size	167,840 ac.
Containment:	79%
Resources on the Fire	Crews: 20 Helicopters: 3 Engines: 31 Dozers: 7
Total Pers.	578

Tunk Block Fire: Firefighters conducted a strategic firing operation in the Tunk Mountain area yesterday to help secure the fireline. The smoke was visible from several areas. Crews continued to construct fire line and mop-up in the large unburned “island” in Tunk Valley. These efforts will continue over the next couple of days. Today crews will continue to mop up any remaining heat near containment lines. Suppression repair of firelines has begun and will continue for several weeks.

North Star Fire: The crews inserted by helicopter on the top of the cliffs east of Highway 21 near Bear Creek constructed direct line and made good progress yesterday. These efforts will continue for a couple of days. Firefighters continue to construct direct line on the fire’s edge east of Swan Butte. Suppression repair of firelines has begun and will continue for several weeks.

North Star Quick Facts	
Size	215,406 ac.
Containment:	47%
Resources on the Fire	Crews: 42 Helicopters: 6 Engines: 50 Dozers: 14
Total Pers.	1,382

Both Fires: The Tunk Block and North Star Fires are both very large. The fires combined are approximately 600 square miles. That is a little larger than the Hawaiian Island of Oahu. It is approximately 625 miles from Omak to Grants Pass, OR. Interior islands and pockets will continue to smolder and burn for the next several weeks. People should not be surprised to see smoke from these areas. Crews are actively mapping the extensive network of dozer line on the fires perimeters and the external contingency line built beyond the fire perimeters.

A night shift will be patrolling the fire areas and available to respond to any reports of flare ups near the fires’ edges or structures.

Weather: The weather is predicted to be similar today as it was yesterday. The next chance for wetting rain is Wednesday night into Thursday morning.

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.

Closures: Much of the Okanogan-Wenatchee and Colville National Forests remain open to recreation, hunting and woodcutting. Closures on National Forest Lands east of Tonasket and south of Highway 20 on the Tonasket Ranger District remain in effect; this includes hunting and woodcutting. Colville Indian Reservation forest and recreational areas within the fires are closed. See the map at <http://tinyurl.com/OkaWen-Closure-Map> or http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3854418.pdf for specific closure areas.

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
Northstarfire2015@gmail.com



Tunk Block on Inciweb



North Star on Inciweb