

# 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 14, 2015 8:00 a.m. (PT)

Tunk Block Quick Facts	
Size	167,840 ac.
Containment:	79%
Resources on the Fire	<b>Crews:</b> 18 <b>Helicopters:</b> 2 <b>Engines:</b> 31 <b>Dozers:</b> 8
Total Pers.	521

**Tunk Block Fire:** Firefighters made good progress securing a difficult containment line in the fire’s rugged northeast corner between Bannon and Tunk Mountains. Crews continued to construct fire line in the large unburned “island” between Powers Butte and Omak Mountain. These efforts will continue over the next several days. Today crews will continue to mop up any remaining heat near containment lines. Suppression repair has begun.

**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 today. These efforts will continue for several days. The fire near Barrett Butte “fell off” the cliffs and progressed to Highway 21. There were no spots across highway 21. Firefighters are constructing direct line on the fire’s edge east of Swan Butte. Suppression repair has begun.

North Star Quick Facts	
Size	214,975 ac.
Containment:	45%
Resources on the Fire	<b>Crews:</b> 38 <b>Helicopters:</b> 7 <b>Engines:</b> 51 <b>Dozers:</b> 14
Total Pers.	1,265

**Both Fires:** The Tunk Block and North Star Fires are both very large. The fires combined are over 590 square miles. That is four times the size of the city of Seattle or about the size of the city of Los Angeles. It is approximately 590 miles from Seattle to Helena, MT. 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. 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 expected to be cooler yet dry Monday with a slight chance of a light shower in the evening. Temperatures are expected to fall into the 60’s reducing fire activity.

**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 National Forest remains 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> for specific closure areas.

### 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