



Table Mountain Fire

Fire Information Update

www.inciweb.org/incident/3269/#

www.fs.usda.gov/okawen

www.co.kittitas.wa.us

www.pnw2.com

Contact: Public Information Office 1-206-947-9705 or 1-206-947-9737

Hours of Operation: 7:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Tuesday, October 2, 2012 – 9:00 AM PDT Fire Status Update

| Fire | Acres | % Contained | Total Personnel |
|----------------|--------|-------------|-----------------|
| Table Mountain | 40,738 | 70 | 1,221 |

News & Events for the Table Mountain Fire:

- A public meeting is planned at Central Washington University for today, October 2, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Student Union Recreation Center room 202.
- A Red Flag warning is in effect until 5pm today, October 2, 2012 due to critically dry and windy conditions.
- Hunting Season is open. The Washington Department of Natural Resources reopened all state lands to the east of Colockum road including, Colockum, Quilomene, and Whiskey Dick's Wildlife Areas. State lands in the Naneum State Forest, west of the Colockum Pass Road; remain closed because of fire hazards.
- US 97 - No restrictions. Please check WSDOT website for current information: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/> or call 511.
- Though interior burning within the perimeter could continue to produce smoke, with the burnout operations complete the amount of smoke should begin to diminish. For more information regarding Air Quality refer to the following websites: <http://wasmoke.blogspot.com> - <http://www.ecy.wa.gov>
- The Kittitas County Emergency Operations Center will re-evaluate the evacuation levels after the current wind event subsides. For current information on evacuations contact the Kittitas County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at www.co.kittitas.wa.us or (509) 933-8305.

Table Mountain Fire Operations Summary:

- Yesterday firefighters completed firing operations near Liberty before the winds arrived in late afternoon. A combination of aerial and hand ignition tactics were used.
- Fire weakened trees, combined with increased winds, pose a health and safety concern for firefighters. Crews will be working to remove hazardous trees that might endanger firefighters.
- Crews will be mopping up and patrolling along the fire's edge.
- High wind speeds could limit or prevent air support.
- Structure protection continues in Liberty along with mop up in Reecer Creek.
- Local Resource Advisors are working with fire officials to determine rehabilitation needs for areas damaged by fire suppression activities.

Closures: Local road closures remain in effect; go to the Kittitas County Emergency Operations Center, Inciweb or the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest website <http://www.fs.usda.gov/okawen> for current road and area closure information.

Area Closures: As of September 26, 2012, all State lands, east of the Naneum State Forest line to the Colockum Pass Road, are closed due to fire hazards. Forest closures remain in place for the Naneum State Forest and for the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest east of Highway 97.

Forest Service and Department of Natural Resource Road Closures: Reecer Creek Road at the Sno-park, Wilson Creek Rd. at the end of the county road, Coleman Canyon Rd., Schnebly Canyon Rd., and Cook Canyon Rd. Additional roads include Liberty Rd., Liberty Mountain Association, Williams Creek Rd., Harkness Rd., Pine Gulch Rd. east of Red Top Rd., Cougar Gulch Rd., Boulder Creek Rd., Upper Green Canyon Rd., Sun East Rd. at the top of Robbins Rd., and Elk Springs Rd.

Red Cross Shelter: The shelter at Mercer Creek Church remains open. The church is located at 407 North "B" Street in Ellensburg. The shelter can provide meals, toiletries, showers, or other services.

Animal Shelter: Evacuated livestock and temporary housing for small pets is available. Shelter staff are taking calls from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday at 509-962-7639. If a need arises outside of normal business hours, please call the Emergency Operations Center at 509-933-8305.

FIRE FACTS:

Table Mountain Fire: Started: September 8, 2012 **Cause:** lightning **Location:** Cle Elum, WA/Kittitas County
Resources: 28 crews, 5 helicopters, 81 engines, 6 dozers, 24 water tenders.

RESOURCE CONCERNS: Multiple historic cabins, archaeological sites, mines, threatened and endangered species, old growth reserves.

WEATHER: Northwesterly winds increased substantially as a strong upper level trough dropped south out of British Columbia. In addition to strong winds a very dry air mass has moved over the area dropping RH's at peak levels down to around 10%. This dry area will mix down to lower elevations this morning dropping RH's into the mid-teens throughout. The strongest of the NW winds will diminish somewhat mid-morning through early afternoon before a second system and its accompanying dry cold front sweeps south out of Canada bringing a strong push of dry northerly winds in the late afternoon and evening.

WEATHER OUTLOOK: Mostly sunny and locally breezy with a much cooler air mass over the area. Northeast winds 10 - 15 mph with gusts 20 -25 along exposed ridges. Highs will range from the upper 50's in valleys to upper 40's on the ridges. Lows Wednesday night around 30 with minimum RH's 30% to 35%. Nighttime recoveries around 70% in valleys and 40% to 45% midslope.

TODAY'S EXPECTED FIRE BEHAVIOR: Wind gusts will produce flare ups in heavier fuels leading to single and group tree torching. The low RH will increase the probability of ignition and the winds will increase the spotting distances up to a half mile.

COOPERATING AGENCIES & PARTNERS: Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Fire Marshall, Kittitas County Fire Districts #1, #2, #7, Kittitas County Sheriff, Yakima County Sheriff, National Guard Resources, British Columbia Wildfire and the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

TABLE MOUNTAIN FIRE SOCIAL MEDIA SITES:

Inciweb: <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3269/>

Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/TableMountainWAFire/>

E-mail: TableMtComplex@gmail.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/TableMountainWAFire>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/TableMtnWAFire>

Word Press: <http://tablemountainwafire.wordpress.com/>

For text message updates via Twitter (no Twitter account is necessary). Send a text message to 40404 and in the body of the message simply write "Follow TableMtnWAFire" (without the quotation marks). You'll receive a reply from 40404 confirming your request and noting instructions to stop messages when you no longer need them. Standard message rates will apply.

For satellite imagery that shows smoke from fires in the area go to the following link:
<http://sat.wrh.noaa.gov/satellite/loopsat.php?wfo=otx&area=west&type=vis&size=1>

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