



Washington Incident Interagency Management Team 2
Incident Commander – Nathan Rabe
Deputy Incident Commander – Rex Reed

Carlton Complex Fire Update
July 18, 2014 - 1:00 PM

FIRE INFORMATION WEBSITE: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3967/>
INFO PHONE: (509) 996-9971 or (509) 996-3568 (7:00 AM to 10:00 PM)
EMAIL: carltoncomplexfire@gmail.com

*****Red Cross Shelters for evacuees include:**

- Omak Fellowship Church, Twisp Grange, Chelan High School – (509) 663-3907

The Carlton Complex fires started on July 14, by lightning from a weather system that moved through the Methow Valley. The fires are burning in timber and grass. Cooperating agencies include the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Washington State Department of Natural Resources, (WA DNR), Bureau of Land Management, WA Department of Fish & Wildlife, Okanogan Fire District 6, Okanogan Fire District 15 and the Okanogan County Sheriff's Office. As of late last, approximately 167,713 acres have been burned.

Yesterday was another challenging day for fire crews. Hot weather and windy conditions pushed the fire over the ridge tops and into the town of Pateros resulting in a large number of evacuations. An estimated 300-500 homes were evacuated including the Pateros Red Cross shelter. The Red Cross Shelter has been moved to the town of Omak. Displaced public can make contact with the Omak Red Cross Shelter at (509) 663-3907. Two additional shelters have also been opened in Twisp and Chelan. The town of Pateros is at a Level 3 Evacuation Notice. The Okanogan Sheriff's Office reports 83 primary structures have been confirmed lost.

Firefighters with Fire District 6 and 15 have been working closely with the WA Incident Management Team on protection of their communities. Public and firefighter safety is the highest priority.

Today, structure protection crews will focus efforts in the town of Brewster patrolling and monitoring around structures. Firefighters are working with property owners to help reduce vegetation and remove debris. A command post has been set up in the area with Okanogan, Douglas, Chelan, and Grant County Emergency Management. Additional state mobilization resources have been requested for structure protection. Increased evacuations are in place for both Pateros and Brewster, but exact locations have been difficult to determine due to the fluid situation and rapid fire growth.

Highway Closures:

Multiple road closures are in effect. Due to the fire situation, highway closures could change very quickly. As of 11:30 am, Hwy 97 from Brewster to Pateros. Hwy 97 from Chelan to Pateros is closed. Portions of Hwy 20 and Hwy 153 are being closed intermittently. You can contact the "511" automated Washington Department of Transportation Travel Information line for updated information.

Forest Service Trail Closures: Due to the changing fire situation, the following trails have been closed by the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest – Middle Fork Ridge #418, Foggy Dew #417, Martin Creek #429, Eagle Lake #431, Crater Creek #416.

Okanogan County Sheriff's Office Evacuation Levels:

LEVEL 1: Persons are warned that current or projected threats from hazards associated with the approaching fires are severe. This is the time to prepare.

LEVEL 2: Conditions indicate a good probability that hazards associated with the approaching fires will severely limit our ability to provide emergency service protection. **You must prepare to leave at a moment's notice. This may be the only notice that you receive.**

LEVEL 3: Current conditions present specific and immediate threats to the life and safety of persons within this area. **You are advised to evacuate immediately.**

With the dynamic fire situation, information on specific road closures and evacuation levels are unavailable at this time. As we receive accurate information from the Okanogan County Sheriff's Office, we will provide updates.

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