



Okanogan-Wenatchee  
National Forest



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## Fire Information – PACE

*Tonasket, WA* – Pacific Northwest Type 1 Incident Management Team 3 (PNW 3) uses an innovative approach in managing incidents such as wildfires. PACE is a contingency planning model used by the military for operations that involve the use of high value assets for assigned missions. PACE is an acronym for:

**P** Primary target

**A** Alternate target - if Primary target is compromised

**C** Contingency target - if Alternative target is compromised

**E** Emergency – actions should overall mission be compromised

PNW 3 led the way in adapting the PACE model for incident management. The model is intended to provide transparency of the primary operational plans and orderly preplanned movement of resources if the current mission is compromised. In applying the PACE model to wildland fire suppression:

The **P** Primary Operational Plan is designed to best meet the protection objectives considering probability of success and acceptable level of risk.

The **A** Alternate Operational Plan is the identified fall back should the Primary plan be compromised. The alternative plan is based on the next best control location for tactical success while meeting objectives (choosing the best ridge, not the next ridge).

The **C** Contingency Plan is identified for fire activity that quickly exceeds the viability of the Alternate Plan due to fire movement or resource availability.

The **E** Emergency Plan is for worst case scenario. Values at risk have been pre-identified such as structures or communities and general protection needs are identified.

In the case of the Newby Lake wildfire, the Primary operational plan to halt the spread of the fire are the existing fire lines and firefighters working to cool down hot spots with assistance from water drops from helicopters.

Fire managers also understand that fire season doesn't typically end until late September and much of

the fuel is dead and down beetle killed Englemann spruce and lodgepole pine. When conditions again become hot and dry, there is the potential for this fire to become active. This fuel type can cast embers ahead of the fire and cause spot fires beyond the fire lines. To prepare for this scenario several Alternate fire lines have been built and plans for Contingency lines have been prepared and will be implemented this week. It should be noted that PACE is intended to be dynamic and is adjusted as conditions warrant.

PNW 3 has found PACE to be an effective tool in providing for firefighter and public safety and meeting resource management and agency objectives.

#### ADDITIONAL FIRE INFORMATION

Web Page - [inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4355/](https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4355/)  
Facebook - [Newby Lake Fire](#)  
Twitter - [@OkaWenNF](#)  
Blog - [newbylakewafire.wordpress.com](https://newbylakewafire.wordpress.com)  
British Columbia Wildfire Service – [bcwildfire.ca](https://bcwildfire.ca)

[inciweb.nwcg.gov](https://inciweb.nwcg.gov)

