



Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest
Naches Ranger District

Meeks Table Fire

Morning Update 9 a.m.
Tuesday, September 15, 2015



WIIMT #4
Brian Gales, Incident Commander
Larry Nickey, Deputy IC
Patrick Halford, IC Trainee

<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4609/>

Fire Information
(509) 653-1468 8 am to 4 pm

<http://wa-imt4.ordvac.com/>

For immediate release:

Direct fireline construction proceeds on all flanks

Nile, Wash. – Firefighters are making good progress to contain the Meeks Table fire. They are taking advantage of cool, moderate weather to work safely adjacent to all but the steepest edges of the fire, using natural barriers and constructing hand lines to minimize its spread.

Mop-up is underway on the west side of the fire. Hoses have been laid to provide water for cooling and extinguishing remaining heat sources along that perimeter. Line construction continues along the north and east flanks of the fire. If burning conditions are favorable this afternoon, firefighters may burn out fingers of fuel to enable using a straighter, more effective containment line. The south edge of the fire above Rattlesnake Creek is being monitored and patrolled.

The weather today will continue to be mild with temperatures in the mid 50's and relative humidity above 38%. The winds will be light, 4-8 mph. Even with more sun today, the grass fuels may be too moist to burn well most of the day. Although sheltered sites under tree canopy or rock outcrops still have very dry fuel that can ignite easily, the fire is expected to stay low on the ground.

To protect firefighter and public safety, the Forest Road 1600 system and the Forest Road 1500 system from the eastern Forest boundary to Bethel Ridge/ Road 199 are closed. Only firefighters and law enforcement officers are allowed to use these roads at this time.

A Community Meeting will take place at 6pm tonight, Tuesday September 15th at the Nile Club House, 1891 Nile Road. The meeting will be an opportunity to learn more about the status of the Meeks Table Fire and the suppression tactics being used to contain it.

Quick Facts:

Fire Size: 937 acres

Location: Thirty miles northwest of Yakima, Wash. Five miles west of Hwy 410 at Nile, Wash.

Fire Start Date: 9/12/15

Cause: Under investigation

Hazards: Steep terrain, Dangerous snags, Helicopter operations, Poor access on narrow roads

Values at Risk: Community of Nile, Wash., recreational cabins, cultural resources, fish and wildlife habitat, timber resources

Containment: 5%

Resources:

6 Crews
1 Type I Helicopter
1 Type II Helicopter
1 Type III Helicopter
19 Engines
2 Dozers
2 Water tenders

Personnel: 271

Closures: Forest Road 1600 system. Forest Road 1500 system from eastern National Forest Boundary to Bethel Ridge / Road 199. Roads are closed to vehicle and foot traffic.

Community Meeting: 6 pm
Tuesday September 15 at the Nile Club House, 1891 Nile Road. Please come to learn more about the status and suppression of the Meeks Table Fire from local officials and Management Team Operations Staff.