



North Zone Complex Daily Update

Thursday March 28, 2024

InciWeb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/vavaf-2024-north-zone-complex>

Contact Information

Email: 2024.NorthZoneComplex@firenet.gov

Phone: (540) 613-8377 (8 a.m. – 8 p.m.)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gwjnf>

Individual Fire Updates—16,040 total acres (increase in acres due to previous strategic firing operations)

- 1. Waterfall Mountain/Shenandoah Forest/211 West Fire (6,399 acres, 87% contained) Shenandoah and Page Counties, VA** – Firefighters will continue to patrol and remove snags (dead, standing, hazardous trees) along containment lines to ensure public safety. They will continue to mop up and patrol the fire today.
- 2. Waites Run Fire (6,223 acres, 75% contained) Hardy County, WV** – Firefighters will mop up and patrol today along existing containment lines.
- 3. Capon/Brush Run Fire (2,422 acres, 95% contained) Rockingham County, VA** – Firefighters will continue to monitor, patrol and conduct suppression repair on the fire.
- 4. Edith Gap/Serenity Ridge Fire (841 acres, 76% contained) Shenandoah and Page Counties, VA** – Firefighters will continue to mop up and patrol the fire today, as well as continue suppression repair.
- 5. Cove Mountain Fire (155 acres, 100% contained) Hardy County, WV** – This fire remains in patrol and monitor status.

The cause of the fires is undetermined and under investigation.

Resources

Resources assigned to the fire include 1 Type 1 Crew, 9 Type 2 Crews, 1 Type 2IA crew, 2 Type 3 helicopters, 11 engines, 3 dozers and 243 personnel.

Weather

Drier air will begin to move over the complex area today with gusty northwesterly winds expected behind a cold front. The incoming cooler and drier airmass will hold temperatures in the low-to-mid 50s with relative humidity dropping down into the 30-40% range. There is a low chance for rain over the complex area mainly toward the eastern fires as a storm system tracks up the East Coast. This storm will bring a mostly cloudy day with some peaks of sun possible later in the day. Behind the coastal storm, incoming cool and dry air will create even gustier westerly winds, especially on the ridges and low relative humidity on Friday under sunny skies.

Fire Behavior

Significant fire spread is not expected today. However, fuels will begin to dry considerably, especially if the sun comes out. Fire movement could be possible during the afternoon in a sunny, exposed location. Special attention should be paid to any containment line that has unburned fuel between the fire's edge and containment line. A potentially windy day on Friday means that firefighters should address heat sources near containment lines/pockets of unburned fuel. Fuels will dry during the day today and be readily available on Friday.

Smoke and Air Quality

Air quality information is available at www.airnow.gov.

Safety

We ask the public to avoid areas with active fire for their own safety and to allow firefighters to work safely. Public and firefighter safety is always our top priority. In addition, please do not fly drones near or over a wildfire. Drones and firefighting aircraft are a dangerous mix and could lead to accidents or slow down wildfire suppression, including water drops. **If you fly, we can't.**



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Closures

For the protection of public health and safety, and for the protection of resources, the following acts are prohibited due to fire suppression activities on the North River and Lee Ranger Districts, George Washington and Jefferson National Forest, Virginia and West Virginia.

- Being on a National Forest System Trail when closed by a sign, gate or barricade. 36 CFR 261.SS(a)
- Operating, leaving, possessing, or parking a motor vehicle on any road when closed by a sign, gate, or barricade. 36 CFR 261.54(e)
- Being in the area of closure by pedestrian or horseback. 36 CFR 251.53(e)
- Being in the area of closure by non-motorized or wheeled conveyance (bicycle). 36 CFR.54(a)

The following areas are closed on the North River and Lee Ranger Districts:

Great North Mountain Area Trails

- FST # 1013.1 Tuscarora Trail -Three Ponds Tr.
- FST # 1013.3 Tuscarora Trail - County Line Tr. South from SR 55 South FST # 1103.2
- FST # 1013.2 Tuscarora Trail - Pond Run Tr.
- FST # 1014 Wilson Cove Tr.
- FST # 400 Vances Cove Tr.
- FST # 405.4 Tuscarora Trail - Little N. Mountain Tr. to SR 600
- FST # 902 Gerhard Shelter Tr.
- FST # 1003 Halfmoon Jr.
- FST # 1003 Halfmoon Lookout Tr.
- FST # 1004 Mill Mountain Tr. Closed north from FST # 1004A Big Schloss Tr.
- FST # 1007 Long Mountain Tr. Closed north FSR 1621 (Cherry Ridge)
- FST # 1014 Wilson Cove Tr.
- FST # 1029 Capon Tr.
- FST # 1030 Bucktail Tr.
- FST # 1030A Bucktail Connector Tr.
- FST # 1036 Racer Camp Hollow Tr.
- FST # 1037 Old Mailpath Tr.
- FST # 1038 German Wilson Tr.
- FST # 400 Vances Cove Tr.
- FST #414 Sulphur Springs Tr.
- FST # Little Sluice Tr.
- FST # 398 Little Sluice Mountain
- FST # 411 Bread Road Tr.

Shelters and Cabins

- Gerhard Shelter Closed
- Sugar Knob Cabin Closed

Forest Service Roads

- FSR 93 Vances Cove Road
- FSR 371 Wilson Cove Road
- FSR 1614 Sugar Hollow Road

Central Massanutten Mountain

- FST # 408 Massanutten National Recreation Trail S from Habron Gap Tr. (#559) and FST # 408 Massanutten National Recreation Trail S. From Edinburg Gap
- FST # 408A Kennedy Peak Tr.
- FST # 458 Stephens Tr.
- FST # 407 Lions Tale National Recreation Trail
- FST # 409 Gap Creek Tr.
- FST # 409A Jawbone Gap Tr.
- FST # 555 Scothorn Gap Tr.
- FST # 642 Massanutten Story Book Tr.
- FST # 644 Discovery Way Tr.
- FST # 645 Wildflower Tr.
- FST # 410 Massanutten Connector Tr.
- FST # 416 Massanutten South Tr.
- FST # 416B Birds Knob Tr.
- FST # 519 Brown Hollow Tr.
- FST # 582 Roaring Run Tr.
- FST # Pitt Springs Lookout Tr.
- Taskers Gap and Peters Mill Run Off Highway Trail System

Forest Roads

- FSR 274 Crisman Hollow Road
- FSR 374 Edinburg Gap Road
- FSR 375 Pitt Springs Road
- FSR 1618A

Bergton Area

- Blue Hole Recreation Area
- Forest Roads**
- FSR 302 to 302 intersection
- FSR 302A
- FSR 302.AI
- FSR 302E



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Closures (continued)

The following persons are exempt from the prohibitions contained in the order: Any federal, state, local Officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force engaged in the performance of an official duty. These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

Burn Ban

Virginia's 4 p.m. Burning Law remains in effect until April 30, 2024. It bans open-air burning before 4 p.m. if the fire is within 300 feet of the woods or dry grass which could carry fire to the woods. Burning is allowed between 4 p.m. and midnight as long as the burner takes proper precautions and attends the fire at all times. For more information, please visit <https://dof.virginia.gov/wildland-prescribed-fire/fire-laws/4-pm-burning-law>.