



North Zone Complex Daily Update

Friday March 29, 2024

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

Contact Information

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Final update from the Southern Area Gold Complex Incident Management Team

Tomorrow at 8 a.m., the Southern Area Gold Complex Incident Command Team will transfer command of the North Zone Complex to a local Type 3 Team led by Incident Commander Colten Moor. All of the fires in the North Zone Complex are currently in the mop up and patrol phase. Today firefighters will look for hot spots, remove snags and address other safety concerns, and continue to secure containment lines in light of today's forecast for high winds and fire danger.

"I thank all of the federal, state, county and local cooperators who have worked side-by-side with us to get the fires to their current condition. We could not have done it without their efforts and support," said Incident Commander Debbie Beard. "We also want to thank the local communities for their hospitality and for making us feel more than welcome to the area. And we continue to keep those who lost homes or structures during this tragic event in our thoughts and hearts."

Our team members and the crews, firefighters and other resources leave their families to travel across the country to work on incidents like this every year. It's what we do. We are proud to have been a part of containing these fires and, hopefully, providing the people who live here a sense of security and the ability to return to their normal lives," Beard continued. "I feel confident that the incoming team will do an excellent job continuing to contain these fires and conduct the every-important suppression repair."

Thank you again for welcoming us into your communities. We wish you all well," she said.

Individual Fire Updates—16,040 total acres

1. **Waterfall Mountain/Shenandoah Forest/211 West Fire (6,399 acres, 92% contained) Shenandoah and Page Counties, VA**
2. **Waites Run Fire (6,223 acres, 75% contained) Hardy County, WV**
3. **Capon/Brush Run Fire (2,422 acres, 95% contained) Rockingham County, VA**
4. **Edith Gap/Serenity Ridge Fire (841 acres, 76% contained) Shenandoah and Page Counties, VA**
5. **Cove Mountain Fire (155 acres, 100% contained) Hardy County, WV** 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, 1Type 3 helicopter, 8 engines, 2 dozers and 210 personnel.

Weather

The National Weather Service has issued a **hazardous weather outlook for the area today**. From 10 a.m. until 8 p.m., northwest winds will range from 20 to 30 mph with gusts up to 50 mph. Relative humidities are expected to drop into the 15-25% range. In addition, **elevated fire danger** is forecast due to a combination of high winds and low relative humidity.

Fire Behavior

Elevated fire danger today! Strong winds are expected from the west/northwest. Fuels will gradually dry during the day, and by early afternoon should be readily available to carry fire. Any loose, uncontained fire will likely display aggressive fire behavior during the afternoon burning period. Expect rapid rates of spread uphill, with persistent short-range spotting. Fire will likely be difficult to suppress during peak burning period.

Smoke and Air Quality

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



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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 261.55(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.

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. **If you fly, we can't.**

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>.