

NORTHEAST  
WASHINGTON INTERAGENCY



Incident Management Team

Andrew Stenbeck, Incident Commander

Fire Information (509) 990-6218 (Call or Text)

## News Release

7/31/24

### Cheney, WA:

Spokane Area Fires incorporates 3 separate fires: South Columbia Basin, Upper Cemetery and Mullen Hill.

Excess resources were released from the fires and reassigned as needed to other wildfires in the state.

Infrared cameras were used on the fires Tuesday evening to check for hotspots within the fire perimeters of the fires.

These hotspots were marked for follow up by fire crews today.

**South Columbia Basin Fire** started on 7/26/24 at approximately 1:39 pm and has burned approximately 252 acres in brush and timber.

**Tuesday:** Fire behavior was minimal. Fire crews made good progress on mop-up along the perimeter of the fire and around structures.

**Wednesday:** Fire crews will continue to mop-up along the perimeter of the fire and will rehab containment lines. It is expected that Wednesday will be the last shift for fire fighters.

**Upper Cemetery Fire** started on 7/26/24 at approximately 4:59 pm and has burned approximately 44 acres in brush and timber.

**Tuesday:** Fire behavior was minimal. Fire crews continue to mop-up along the perimeter of the fire.

**Wednesday:** Fire crews will continue to mop-up along the perimeter of the fire and around structures and rehab containment lines. It is expected that Wednesday will be the last shift for fire fighters.

**Mullen Hill Fire** started on 7/28/24 at approximately 5:48 pm and has burned approximately 9 acres in brush and timber. This will be the **last update** for the Mullen Hill Fire

**Tuesday:** Fire crews finished mop-up of the fire, rehab containment lines and removed firefighting equipment.

Quick Facts	
South Columbia Basin Summary	
Incident Start	7/26/24
Approximate Size	252 acres
Containment	85%
Resources on Fire	4 – Hand Crews 3 – Engines 2 – Water Tenders 1 - Dozers
Total Personnel	71
Structures Damaged / Destroyed	3 residences destroyed. 7 outbuildings destroyed. 1 residence damaged.

Quick Facts	
Upper Cemetery Summary	
Incident Start	7/26/24
Approximate Size	44 acres
Containment	65%
Resources on Fire	1 – Hand Crews 4 – Engines 1 – Water Tenders
Total Personnel	37
Structures Damaged / Destroyed	1 – outbuilding damaged.

**Wednesday:** Fire will be in patrol status and monitor by local fire crews.

**Weather:** Temperatures will increased today to an expected high of 87 degrees and relative humidity will decrease to about 28%. Southwest winds of 6 to 9 mph are predicted.

**Evacuations: No Evacuations**  
**Road Closures: No Road Closures**

For information on evacuation levels for all three fires, please visit Spokane County Emergency Management at this link:  
<https://bit.ly/SRECOfficialEvac>

Additional information and updates can be found at the South Columbia Basin fire's InciWeb site located at this link: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/wanes-south-columbia-basin>

**When residents of a fire-prone community clear brush, trees and other flammable materials away from their homes and other structures, it helps keep residents and firefighters safe.**

**You can help by creating defensible space within 100 feet of your structure:**

- Clean roofs (remove branches & leaves), gutters (clear pine needles) and decks (move furniture & toys)
- Reduce brush, limb trees and mow grasses
- Move wood piles at least 30 feet away from structures
- Replace vent screens with 1/8" or smaller wire mesh.

Visit [wildfireready.com](http://wildfireready.com) for more information.

<b>Quick Facts</b> <b>Mullen Hill Summary</b>	
<b>Incident Start</b>	7/28/24
<b>Approximate Size</b>	9 acres
<b>Containment</b>	100%
<b>Resources on Fire</b>	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	0
<b>Structures Damaged / Destroyed</b>	0