



# UPPER RUBY FIRE UPDATE

Wednesday, August 28, 2024  
0900 Hours



## Fire Information

**Inciweb:** <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/wacof-upper-ruby>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/newfireinfo>

**Phone:** 509-990-6218 (hours 8 am – 8 pm)

For Immediate Release

**Ione, WA –**

**PUBLIC AND FIREFIGHTER SAFETY IS THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY.**

The Upper Ruby Fire is in central Pend Oreille County approximately 16 miles northwest of Cusick, WA. It is burning in fuels remaining on the ground following logging activities and in heavily forested areas.

**OPERATIONS:** Yesterday, 10 crews, 9 engines, 7 water tenders, and 3 pieces of heavy equipment continued mopping up along the fire perimeter to strengthen control lines. This included digging by hand, using hoses to apply water to the ground, and using heavy equipment. Portable handheld infrared technology was used to identify heat near the fire perimeter. Crews mopped up at least 33 feet from the fire perimeter with some areas up to 100 feet. Containment was increased to 39%.

At least 8 medical personnel were staged throughout the fire to support fire personnel.

**TODAY:** crews will continue to mop up along the fire perimeter. Portable handheld infrared technology will continue to be used to identify heat near the fire perimeter so that crews can work to extinguish those areas.

**HAZARDS:** Hazards to firefighters include hot ash pits, unstable footing, fire-weakened and standing dead trees (snags) and a very high population of ground nesting bees.

**WEATHER:** Partly cloudy in the morning becoming mostly sunny in the afternoon. High temperature around 63 degrees. Westerly winds 4 to 6 mph with gusts to 14 mph in the afternoon.

## Quick Facts

**Containment:** 39%

**Fire Perimeter:** 280 acres

**Initial Start:** 08/20/24

**Location:** Ruby Creek Drainage - approximately 16 miles northwest of Cusick, WA

**Hazards:** hot ash pits, timber snags, bees, and narrow roads

**Values at Risk:** Private residences, ongoing timber sales

**Cause:** Undetermined

**Personnel:** 262

**Structures destroyed:** 0

**Evacuations:** None

**Road Closures:** Ruby Creek Road (5.5 miles in from Hwy 20), Tacoma Creek Rd (about 11 miles west of Hwy 20), and Tacoma Divide Road (about 4 miles south of Hwy 20)