



UPPER RUBY FIRE

UPDATE

Sunday, August 25, 2024
0900 Hours



Fire Information

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

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

Phone: 509-671-0625 (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 in the Ruby Creek Drainage 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, firefighters assessed the impact of the overnight storms and dealt with safety hazards. Then they used heavy equipment and hand tools to build fire line. Firefighters were aided by aerial heat detection capabilities that identified the exact location of spot fires as small as a coffee cup. The remaining 0.5 mile section of unconnected fire line was completed and now control line surrounds the entire fire perimeter. Due to efforts in the past week, crews and equipment have achieved 10% containment. Although rain moderates fire behavior, the crews were safely pulled back from the fire area late in the day as this round of storms created slick conditions.

Today, crews will widen lines to secure the fire perimeter and improve contingency lines. Applying water with fire hose and mopping up will continue to strengthen all the control lines.

HAZARDS: Hazards to firefighters include fire-weakened and standing dead trees (snags), fallen trees from recent wind gusts, slick footing and wet roads from recent rain, and a very high population of ground nesting bees.

WEATHER: Cool temperatures, light winds, and patchy morning fog forecast for Sunday morning. Warming temperatures and clearing skies expected through the day.

Slight chance of rain showers is expected to move into the area Monday night through Tuesday before we see another round of possibly wet and windy weather.

Quick Facts

Fire Perimeter: 284 acres

Initial Start: 08/20/24

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

Hazards: Timber snags, bees, slippery footing, high winds and narrow roads

Values at Risk: Private residences, ongoing timber sales

Cause: Undetermined

Containment: 10%

Personnel: approximately 250

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)