



UPPER RUBY FIRE

UPDATE

Monday, August 26, 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, firefighters installed several thousand feet of firehose along the steep west flank of the fire. They filled porta-tanks with water tenders and used hose to get water onto the constructed fireline. On the east flank, a similar operation used over 10,000 gallons of water each day for the last 3 days along a ½ mile section of constructed fireline to extinguish hot spots deep in the duff layer. On the north and west sides of the fire, in addition to mopping up along the fire edge, crews completed contingency control lines by extending the Little Ruby Creek and 170 roads with dozer line. These contingency lines were built in case fire was to escape the primary direct fireline.

It was determined the fire remained within primary control lines following the recent wind event, but that the accompanying rain did little to extinguish hot spots deep in the duff layer.

Today, crews will use six-wheel drive tactical water tenders and skidsteers (small all-terrain water tenders) to fill porta-tanks in remote areas of the fire. Firefighters will pump water around the control line from porta-tanks to charge their hoses. They use them to continue the arduous work of extinguishing extremely hot embers burning over 18 inches deep in the duff layer.

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. Yesterday, firefighters practiced a mock injury and extraction using equipment and expertise provided by the onsite Rapid Extraction Module (REM). This provided crews with experience to safely transport a fellow firefighter in case of an actual severe injury.

WEATHER: Drier, warmer weather is expected today, with possible cooler, wetter weather on Tuesday. Light winds are predicted.

Quick Facts

Containment: 16%

Fire Perimeter: 284 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: approximately 240

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)