



UPPER RUBY FIRE

UPDATE

Thursday, August 29, 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 2 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 continued to mop up around the fire perimeter with containment reaching 53%. Excess resources were released from the incident.

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 and remove firefighting equipment no longer needed. 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. Excess resources will continue to be released.

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: Sunny with a warming, drying trend into the weekend. High temperature around 70 degrees. Southeast winds 2 to 5 mph.

Quick Facts

Containment: 53%

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: 257

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)