

U.S. FOREST SERVICE FIRE UPDATE

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest 215 Melody Lane Wenatchee, WA 98801

For immediate release: August 18, 2011 7:30 p.m.

Contacts: Susan C Peterson, Okanogan-Wenatchee Public Affairs, 509-548-2558
Vladimir Steblina, Fire Information Officer, 509-679-3230
Joe Anderson, Fire Information Officer, 509 860-7209

Tumwater Canyon Fire Grows

Leavenworth, Wash. — The Tumwater Canyon Fire grew to approximately 200 acres. The Tumwater Canyon Fire is six miles north of the city of Leavenworth and is located on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Wenatchee River Ranger District.

There are approximately 150 fire personnel assigned, including Forest Service Fire Crews from the Wenatchee River, Entiat, and Cle Elum Ranger Districts, Chelan County Fire Districts 3 and 9, along with the Prineville, La Grande and Union Hotshots with air support from the Forest Service and the Department of Natural Resources.

The fire is burning in steep, rugged terrain. It is burning in the Tumwater Canyon, south of the Wenatchee River Bridge and east of Highway 2 in a mix of grass, shrub and mixed conifer vegetation. The strategy today is to keep the fire out of private timber lands, protect resources, and ensure firefighter and public safety.

The incident is being managed by a Type 3 Incident Management Team with Chad Schmidt as Incident Commander.

For firefighter and public safety, the Washington State Patrol has temporarily closed Highway 2 from Coles Corner to Leavenworth. A detour has been set-up through the Chumstick Valley which adds fifteen minutes travel time to Leavenworth. The closure is due to the need for staging fire equipment on the highway due to limited parking areas.

Additional resources and suppression activities will on the fire today. The terrain and vegetation that the fire is burning within will result in slightly hazy skies. Smoke has been minimal the past two days and is expected further decrease as suppression activities continue this weekend.

Temperatures are expected to be in the mid-80's with clear skies and light winds this weekend.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

For general fire information, contact the Wenatchee River Ranger District at 509.548.2558 or visit www.inciweb.org and click on the Tumwater Fire. For Highway 2 road closures dialing 511 will get current updates.

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