



## **U.S. FOREST SERVICE FIRE** **UPDATE**

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

**For immediate release: Tuesday, July 15, 2014 8:00 pm**

**Contacts: Susan C Peterson, Fire Information, (509)-548-2558**

### **Chiwaukum Creek Fire Grows**

*Leavenworth, Wash.* - The Chiwaukum Creek Fire was reported by an aerial observer earlier Tuesday and grew from 1/10<sup>th</sup> of an acre to 200-500 acres. Exact acreage is hard to determine because of the very smoky conditions. The fire is located approximately three miles south of the Coles Corner area near Lake Wenatchee, and approximately ten miles north of Leavenworth.

The Chiwaukum Creek fire management is transitioning from the Wenatchee River Ranger District to a new Operational Division of the Mills Canyon Fire Complex. Current fire resources include: two helicopters, 3 hotshot crews, and 2-20 person fire crews. For Wednesday, suppression resources will include 5-Type 1 Hotshot crews, 1-Type 2 Firefighter crew, 4-dozers, 2-Engine Strike Teams.

The Chiwaukum Creek Fire is actively burning upslope from the valley floor to ridge top. It is burning in heavy fuels (brush and timber) with the potential for a high rate of spread. Spotting was reported up to a mile from the fire head. Trails #1584 and 1571 are being swept by Wenatchee River Ranger District trail crews and also the Gill Creek, Lake Ethel, Lake Julius, Loch Eileen and Lake Donald areas.

Red flag warnings tomorrow (7/16/14) are for winds pushing to the east and north with wind gusts to 30 mph.

Evacuation notices issued by Chelan County in conjunction with the FS include:

- Level 3 Chiwaukum Creek Drainage**
- Level 3 Coulter Creek**
- Level 2 Tumwater Campground**

#### **Evacuation Levels defined:**

**Level 1** evacuations are an alert. Residents should be aware of the danger that exists, and monitor local media outlets for information. Residents with special needs, or those with pets or livestock, should take note and make preparations for relocating family members, pets, and livestock.

**Level 2** evacuations indicate there is a significant risk to your area, and residents should either voluntarily relocate to a shelter or with family/friends outside of the area, or, **be ready to leave at a moment's notice.**

**Level 3** means danger is currently affecting your area or is imminent, and you should **leave immediately.**

Smoke is visible from the Leavenworth, Lake Wenatchee and Cashmere areas. The Cause is not determined.

**For additional fire information, please call 509.888.5160.**

# Mills Canyon Fire Information 509-784-9131/509-888-5160



**ENTIAT**

Chelan County  
Fire District 8



Chelan County  
Fire District 1



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
Natural Resources

Washington  
Department of  
Natural Resources



Okanogan-  
Wenatchee  
National Forest



Bureau of Land  
Management  
Spokane District



Ed Lewis  
Incident  
Commander  
IMT PNW Team 3

## Fire Update – 07/16/2014 10:00 a.m. PT

### Yesterday

A high temperature of 108 degrees was registered in Entiat Tuesday afternoon. Heat safety was emphasized to firefighters and no serious incidents were reported. The planned burnout was postponed indefinitely. The decision was made for crews assigned to that area to instead, aggressively mop up hot spots; reducing the possibility of burning materials crossing the fireline.. Elsewhere on the fire, work progressed as planned. Crews continued closing gaps between line segments along the northwest flank. The structure group completed priority contingency work south of Burch Mountain. The north and east flanks were in mop up and patrol status and are ready to initiate fireline rehabilitation.

A new fire was detected on the the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest northwest of Winton, Washington. Located in Chiwaukum Creek, the estimated size was at over 400 acres with active spotting by late afternoon. Responsibility for this fire has been assigned to PNW Team 3. An Initial contingent of air and ground resources and support were assigned last night.

### Weather

A Heat Advisory continues through today. Maximum temperatures are predicted to be only slightly cooler than yesterday. Relative humidity will remain low (very dry air). A dry cold front will begin moving through the region later today bringing Increased wind velocities (10 to 12 mph with gusts to 20), and shifting direction from west to the west-northwest later today. As the front passes, a fire weather advisory related to wind and dry conditions is expected.

Quick Facts Incident Summary	
Location:	Southwest of Entiat, WA
Approximate Size:	22,571 Acres
Fire Containment:	40%
Start Date:	7/8/14
Cause:	Unknown
Incident Commander:	Ed Lewis, PNW Team 3
Resources on the Fire:	Crews: 24 Helicopters: 6 Engines: 88 Dozers: 9 Water Tenders: 19
Total Personnel:	973
Jurisdiction:	Chelan Co. Fire Districts 1 & 8 USDI-Bureau of Land Management Washington State DNR USDA-Forest Service

### Today's Operations

Activities on Mills Canyon will be very similar to yesterday. The emphasis is on closing any remaining gaps in the containment lines, advancing mop up operations and performing fireline rehabilitation on the most secure segments. An initial attack group remains in place to respond to new fire starts within the Mills Canyon vicinity and assist local agencies as needed.

The Chiwaukum Fire is burning in heavy timber, logging slash and brush. Active spotting (embers lofted ahead of the main fire) and intense burning were observed. Part of the fire is within the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and road access to its present location is limited. Seven hand crews, structure protection units, bulldozers and supervisory personnel are working on that fire. Values at risk include structures north and west of the fire, a busy railroad line, a federal campground and natural resources. The first steps today are to assess the fire, develop a more detailed plan of attack and begin implementing that plan. A spike camp is being established at Fish Lake Airstrip to support operations and it is anticipated that additional resources will be allocated to the fire.

4.5 miles south of Nasar Rest Area

Smoke patterns likely will change from what they have been for the past week. Activity on Mills Canyon has diminished, while Chiwaukum is increasing. Leavenworth and Cashmere may experience more intense smoke incursions. The elderly, children, and anyone with compromised respiratory health are advised to take precautions to limit exposure to smoky conditions. The Chelan-Douglas County Health District provides local air quality advisories ([www.cdhd.wa.gov](http://www.cdhd.wa.gov)).

Potential traffic hazards between Wenatchee and Entiat have decreased to a degree. However, travelers on US Highway 2 west of Leavenworth may see fire traffic and smoky conditions. Motorists should stay informed about highway closures when using these routes, especially US 2. Drivers are cautioned to avoid being distracted by fire activity and suppression traffic as they enter fire zones.

Fire activity across the Pacific Northwest has increased dramatically. Be sure to check with your fire agencies for restrictions, forest and state closures.

#### **Evacuations Mills Canyon**

**Level 1:** Entiat River Road from Keystone to Mad River, Eagle Rock/Burch Mountain area, Nahahum Canyon beyond the end of the pavement, Hay Canyon beyond the end of the pavement and Olalla Canyon beyond the end of the pavement (a total of approximately 416 structures).

**Level 2:** Swakane Canyon (approximately 3 structures).

**Level 3:** None

#### **Evacuations Chiwaukum**

**Level 1:** None

**Level 2:** The south side of US Highway 2 from Coulter Creek to Hatchery Creek.

**Level 3:** Chiwaukum Creek Road, Coulter Creek Road, including Scottish High Camp.

The truck portion of Nason Creek Rest Area is closed. The passenger car areas is open.

Chelan County officials in consultation with the incident management team are regularly evaluating evacuation levels and making adjustments as conditions dictate. For additional information on evacuation levels or road closures, please refer to the Chelan County Emergency Management Facebook page.

#### **Definitions**

**Level 1: Alert** - Residents should be aware of the danger that exists in their area, and monitor local media outlets for information. Evacuations at this time are voluntary.

**Level 2: Be Ready** - This level indicates there is significant danger to your area, and residents should either voluntarily relocate to a shelter or with family/friends outside of the effected area, or if choosing to remain, to be ready at a moment's notice.

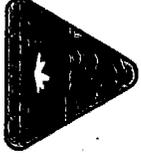
**Level 3: Leave Immediately** - Danger to your area is current or imminent, and you should leave immediately.

#### **Shelters**

The Red Cross is on standby if shelter is needed. For additional information contact the Wenatchee Red Cross at 509-663-3907

**FOR ADDITIONAL AND UPDATED FIRE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:**  
<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3937/> or follow [www.twitter.com/OkaWenNF](http://www.twitter.com/OkaWenNF)

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# Mills Canyon Fire Information

Maps, Updates and other information is regularly posted to:

[Inciweb.nwccg.gov](http://Inciweb.nwccg.gov)

**Email:** [MillsCanyonFire@gmail.com](mailto:MillsCanyonFire@gmail.com)

**Twitter:** [@MillsCanyonFire](https://twitter.com/MillsCanyonFire)

**Facebook:** [MillsCanyonFire](https://www.facebook.com/MillsCanyonFire)

**Wordpress:** [MillsCanyonFire.WordPress.com](http://MillsCanyonFire.WordPress.com)



# **Chelan County Sheriff's Office**

## **Evacuation Notification Summary**

### **Level 1**

Persons are warned that current or projected threats from hazards associated with the approaching fire(s) are severe.

This is the time for preparation, and precautionary movement of persons with special needs, mobile property, and (under certain circumstances) pets and livestock.

You will be kept advised as conditions change. Area radio stations have been asked to broadcast periodic updates.

If conditions worsen, we will make every attempt to contact you. If you are absent from your home for more than a short period of time, please leave a note with your name and a contact telephone in a visible location. An attempt will be made to contact you by phone.

### **Level 2**

Conditions indicate a good probability that hazards associated with the approaching fire(s) will severely limit our ability to provide emergency service protection. Dangerous conditions exist that may threaten your residence or business.

**You must prepare to leave at a moments notice.**

Fire and law enforcement personnel are working in this area to provide specific information about when to leave and the route(s) to be taken.

**This may be the only notice that you receive.**

You will be kept advised as conditions change. Area radio stations have been asked to broadcast periodic updates.

### **Level 3**

Current conditions present specific and immediate threat(s) to the life and safety of persons within this area

**You are advised to evacuate immediately.**

Law enforcement personnel are working in this area to provide specific information on the route(s) to take.

A temporary shelter has been set up at:

If you choose to ignore this advisement, you must understand that emergency services may not be available.

Volunteers will not be allowed to enter the area to provide assistance.

Roadblocks and 24-hour patrols will be established in the area. Residents will not be allowed to return until road conditions are safe.

Area radio stations have been asked to broadcast periodic updates.