
Tag: Sleepy Harbor Fire

Washington's wildfire season off to an early start



3-D map of the Sleepy Hollow Fire in Wenatchee, Washington, looking west, 1 a.m. PT, June 30, 2015. Note the spot fire near the river that is 1.2 miles east of the main fire. (click to enlarge)

The [Sleepy Hollow Fire](#) that swept into Wenatchee, Washington destroying 29 homes announced the early beginning of the wildfire season in the state. A spot fire 1.2 miles in front of the main fire that for a while was not noticed while

structures were burning on the other side of town, spread into four industrial buildings.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) has an interesting article about the fire and the current situation in Washington that has led to concern about how the state will deal with the conditions this summer, and beyond. Below are excerpts from the article:

...”This is a stress test for 2070,” said Cliff Mass, a professor of atmospheric sciences at the University of Washington. “We’re being tested now with the warmth and lack of snowpack that will be typical at the end of the century. How do we get through it?”

Climate experts say the current conditions in the Pacific Northwest are part of a short-term climate phenomenon, but they warn that temperatures are rising everywhere. In Seattle, for example, that means warmer, wetter winters and warmer, drier summers.

[...]

Two months ago, Democratic Gov. Jay Inslee declared a statewide drought emergency, a snowpack drought rather than a precipitation drought. At the time, state officials warned that the 2015 fire season could be earlier and fiercer than Washington has ever seen.

Now that it has begun in earnest, “it’s worse than I feared,” Goldmark said.

[...]

Sitting on the tailgate of a pickup truck in front of what had been her home of 18 years, Sharon Cooper marveled Wednesday that all of the precautions she and her husband, Nick, had taken through the years did no good against the Sleepy Hollow fire.

Not the concrete shingles. Not the backyard fire hose with high-pressure water. Not the regular efforts to whack away the brush.

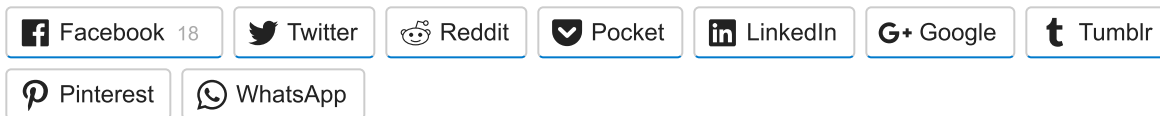
“This is August kind of stuff,” Cooper said, mourning the community’s loss, wondering whether she and Nick would rebuild. “Even sometimes the Fourth of July is rainy and yucky here.... Everything’s changing.”

Another article worth your time is titled [Large, early blazes in unusual places are shaping this year’s wildfire season](#). The piece in the MinnPost looks at the general wildfire situation in the United States and Canada. A brief excerpt:

...As of Monday, according to the CBC, Saskatchewan had 112 active fires across the province, bringing the year-to-date total to 569. That’s nearly three times the tally for 2014, and the acreage in flames is 10 times a normal year’s.

The newest fires near La Ronge, toward the northern fringe of settlement in the province, prompted evacuation of 8,000 more people, bringing to 13,000 the number waiting out the battles in emergency shelters — the largest evacuation in provincial history. More than half of them had to be lodged in neighboring Alberta...

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Bill Gabbert / July 7, 2015 / Sleepy Harbor Fire, Washington / 1 Comment

Spot fire from Sleepy Hollow Fire burned commercial structures 1.2 miles

from main fire



3-D map of the Sleepy Hollow Fire in Wenatchee, Washington, looking west, 1 a.m. PT, June 30, 2015. Note the spot fire near the river that is 1.2 miles east of the main fire. (click to enlarge)

The map above is a 3-D rendering of the perimeter of the Sleepy Hollow Fire that burned into Wenatchee in central Washington Sunday, June 28. The map is looking west, and was produced after a mapping flight at 1 a.m. PT, July 1. The fire burned 24 residences and several commercial structures.

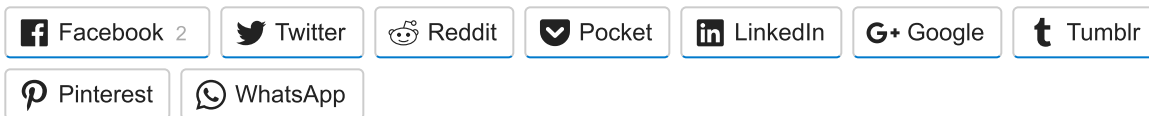
One interesting thing is the spot fire that caused several businesses to burn near the river 1.2 miles away from the main fire. It is believed that a burning ember landed in some bales of cardboard that were to be recycled. While firefighters were engaged miles away trying to save homes, the fire spread from the cardboard to several nearby commercial structures, some of which were warehouses and fruit packing plants. Monday morning, June 29, smoke was still coming from

the facilities of Michelsen Packaging Company, Northwest Wholesale, and Blue Bird Inc.

This is not unheard of, for a burning ember to travel that far and ignite a new fire, and has happened over greater distances. A recent example was on the [King Fire in northern California in 2014](#), where a spot fire occurred 2 miles in front of the main fire.

[More information about the Sleepy Hollow Fire on Wildfire Today.](#)

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Bill Gabbert / July 2, 2015 / fire behavior, Sleepy Harbor Fire, spot fire, Washington

Homes burn in Wenatchee, Washington wildfire

(UPDATED at 7:32 p.m. PT, July 1, 2015)



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The map above is a 3-D map of the Sleepy Hollow Fire in central Washington, looking west, produced after a mapping flight at 1 a.m. PT, July 1.

One interesting thing is the spot fire that caused several businesses to burn near the river. It was 1.2 miles away from the main fire. This is not unheard of, for a burning ember to travel that far and ignite a new fire. It has happened over much greater distances.

A recent example was on the [King Fire in northern California in 2014](#) — a spot fire occurred 2 miles in front of the main fire.

(UPDATED at 10:58 a.m. PT, June 30, 2015)

The Sleepy Hollow Fire 95 air miles east of Seattle has been mapped at 2,995 acres. The incident commander, according to @jwhittenbergK5, confirms that 24 residences burned.

Heavy rain Sunday evening stopped the spread of the fire, however the industrial facilities continued to burn.

(UPDATED at 9:38 p.m. PT, June 29, 2015)

Fire officials are reported at 3:35 p.m. on Monday that the Sleepy Hollow Fire that spread into Wenatchee, Washington burned 24 to 28 residences, and that a more accurate count will be available when fire crews are able to access the entire burned area. They are estimating the size at 4,000 acres.

Wenatchee is in central Washington, 95 air miles miles east of Seattle.

Approximately four businesses also burned, some of which were about a mile from the main fire. The suspicion is that burning embers landed in some bales of cardboard that were being recycled and that fire spread into the industrial structures.

(UPDATED at 4:03 PT, June 29, 2015)

The [Wenatchee World](#) has a gallery of photos showing the neighborhoods that burned.

Rain on Monday, heavy in some areas, will make the job of firefighters much easier. The precipitation even caused a mud slide that closed Highway 2 near the mouth of Pine Canyon shortly after 3 p.m.

(UPDATED at 11:42 a.m. PT, June 29, 2015)

Wash. Fire Chief: Wenatchee Blaze a 'Firestorm'



As you will hear in the video above, the number of structures burned in the Sleepy Hollow Fire in Wenatchee, Washington has been revised upward, from 24 to 28.

(UPDATED at 9:30 a.m. PT, June 29, 2015; originally published at 8:53 a.m. PT, June 29, 2015)

Approximately 24 structures have burned in a rapidly spreading wildfire in Wenatchee, Washington, reports Jake Whittenberg of King 5 News. The Sleepy Hollow Fire started Sunday afternoon, June 29 and by Monday morning had burned 3,000 acres. The number of structures destroyed could change as firefighters are able to get a better look at the damage caused by the fire in central Washington 95 miles east of Seattle. More than 1,000 people have been forced to evacuate, including a Walmart store in the north part of town.

Strong winds on Monday afternoon and triple-digit temperatures helped spread the fire quickly from where it started three miles west of town through sage and

grass into a “pretty dense urban interface area”, said deputy state fire marshal Bill Slosson.

Some of the structures that burned were warehouses and fruit packing plants. Monday morning smoke was still coming from the facilities of Michelsen Packaging Company, Northwest Wholesale, and Blue Bird Inc.

“The city is asking residents to severely curtail water use”, Carl Buick, who lives nearby, told Wildfire Today. “This is significant because we have a robust water system and supply. The reservoirs have been severely drawn down.”

The fire was still very active through Sunday night, but firefighters hoped rain falling Monday morning would help them corral the devastating fire.

A [weather station 14 miles north of the fire](#) recorded 0.01” of rain at 7:24 a.m. Monday morning, but there was a report of heavier rain at the fire. That same station reported a high temperature of 111 degrees on Sunday. Most of Washington, including the Wenatchee area, [is under a Red Flag Warning on Monday](#) for gusty winds and the possibility of dry lightning, which could ignite more fires.

The video below is from a Sunday night newscast.

At least a dozen homes burn, hundreds evacuated as Sleepy Holl...



A Type 2 incident management team has been ordered.



Jake Whittenberg 📹
@jwhittenbergK5

Skyking captured the devastation on Broadview in Wenatchee. 24 structures lost. [#SleepyHollowFire](#) @KING5Seattle

8:51 AM - Jun 29, 2015

1 15 3



Susie Rantz 🏳️‍🌈
@SusieRants

At least 12 homes destroyed in Wenatchee fire. So sad. | via [@KING5Seattle](#): kng5.tv/1LDYmO0

8:42 AM - Jun 29, 2015

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