

OKANOGAN HIGHLANDS FIREWATCH

FEATURES & RESOURCES · COMPARISON GUIDE

Prepared July 2026 · okanoganhighlandsfirewatch.app

LIVE FIRE INTELLIGENCE

- **Live incident map** — real-time wildfire dispatches (WildCAD-E) with flame icons, smoke checks, prescribed burns, and active/contained/out filters
- **NIFC national incident data** — official acreage & percent containment merged onto every incident page, shown side-by-side with mapped GIS perimeter acres
- **WA DNR fire statistics** — state-level fire data blended into the feed
- **Fire perimeters & mapped acres** — official GIS perimeter overlays that often update faster than dispatch feeds
- **NASA FIRMS VIIRS satellite hotspots** — infrared heat detections from space, plus automatic satellite growth estimates when fresh hotspots extend beyond the mapped perimeter
- **Spread direction & progression analysis** **NEW** — satellite time-cohorts show which way a fire is moving: compass arrow on the map, miles per day, and hotspots that fade with age (brightest = newest)
- **7-day acreage growth sparklines** on each incident page
- **Historical fire archive** with heatmap and year-by-year scrubbing

COVERAGE AREAS

- **Multi-county** — Okanogan, Chelan, Kittitas, and more
- **Washington State view** — statewide dashboard at /region/washington
- **BC Border (Canada) view** — fires and evacuations for Osoyoos / Keremeos / Grand Forks via BC Wildfire Service at /region/bcborder

EVACUATIONS & ALERTS

- **Evacuation zones** — Level 1 / 2 / 3 from county Emergency Management and Perimeter API
- **Road closures inside each evacuation zone** **NEW** — WSDOT highway closures and County EM road blocks listed under every evac zone, one tap away
- **"Is your place in the line of fire?"** **NEW** — drop a pin at your address on any fire page: see the distance, direction, and whether satellite spread is pointing your way
- **Follow fires with distance tracking** **NEW** — followed fires are pinned with a pulsing ring and a live distance line from your location, plus a Following panel on the dashboard
- **NWS weather alerts** — Red Flag Warnings and weather polygons on the map
- **Saved Locations with radius alarms** — pin your home, cabin, or trailhead and get warned when fire gets close
- **Push notifications** — proximity alerts, "Follow this fire" updates, Large Airtanker proximity, Rapid Fire Growth (2× in 24 hrs)

AIRCRAFT & FIELD RESOURCES

- **Live firefighting aircraft tracking (ADS-B)** — tankers, helicopters, lead planes with photos, callsigns, and smoothed flight trails
- **Wildfire cameras** — live camera feeds viewable inline
- **Broadcastify scanner audio** — live dispatch radio embeds
- **Morning briefings** — NWCC Morning Brief (PNW preparedness levels, IMT rotation & team assignments) and the NIFC national briefing, parsed daily

ROADS, AIR & WEATHER

- **Incident fire weather** **NEW** — live NWS wind speed & direction, temperature, humidity, and a 6-hour wind outlook on every fire page
- **WSDOT road closures & mountain pass conditions**
- **AirNow AQI monitors** — live air quality readings
- **NOAA smoke forecast polygons**
- **Live lightning strikes** (Blitzortung)
- **Burn bans by county**

COMMUNITY

- **Accounts & profiles with Verified Reporter applications** — gold-shield field updates from trained locals
- **Geotagged field photos** **NEW** — verified reporters attach photos to field updates; geotagged shots drop as pins on the map, with a Field Photos layer on the live map
- **Admin tools** — incident curation, member stats, statewide alert broadcasts
- **Sharing** — Daily Snapshot cards for Facebook/SMS per county or region, per-incident share cards with live spread & evacuation strips, RSS & iCal feeds
- **Community-funded** — donation-supported, ad-free, free for everyone

HOW WE COMPARE TO WATCH DUTY

FEATURE-BY-FEATURE

CAPABILITY	WATCH DUTY	FIREWATCH
Live dispatch (WildCAD)	Yes	Yes
Evacuation zones & fire perimeters	Yes	Yes
Satellite hotspots (VIIRS)	Yes	Yes
Satellite spread-direction analysis	No	Yes (compass + mi/day)
Address pin "line of fire" check	No	Yes (distance + threat)
Per-incident fire weather (wind)	No	Yes (NWS hourly)
Radius alerts for saved locations	Yes	Yes
Follow fires w/ distance from home	Partial (updates only)	Yes (map pin + miles)
Road closures inside evac zones	No	Yes (WSDOT + County EM)
Firefighting aircraft tracking	Paid (\$25/yr)	Free + photos & callsigns
Live scanner audio	No	Yes (Broadcastify)
Live lightning strikes	No	Yes (Blitzortung)
Air quality (AQI) + smoke forecast	No	Yes (AirNow + NOAA)
Road closures & mountain passes	No	Yes (WSDOT)
Cross-border Canada (BC) fires & evacs	No	Yes
Automatic rapid-growth alerts	No	Yes (2× in 24 hrs)
Daily morning briefing push	No	Yes (8 AM + 8 PM recap)
Burn bans	No	Yes
Geotagged reporter field photos	Yes (staff photos)	Yes (map-pinned)
Coverage footprint	20+ western states	North-central WA + BC border (deep)
Human-verified reporting	~200 trained reporters	Automated feeds + growing Verified Reporter program
Native mobile apps	iOS / Android	Installable web app (PWA) with push

WHERE WATCH DUTY IS AHEAD

- **Scale & staffing** — coverage across 20+ western states with ~200 trained human reporters (retired firefighters & dispatchers) verifying every incident
- **Brand trust** — millions of users, established nonprofit, official agency relationships
- **Native apps** — mature iOS/Android apps with battle-tested push infrastructure

OUR EDGE: HYPERLOCAL DEPTH

A MILE DEEP, NOT A MILE WIDE

For Okanogan and north-central Washington, Firewatch aggregates more data sources on one screen than any other service — dispatch, aircraft, scanner audio, lightning, smoke, air quality, road closures, burn bans, and cross-border BC fires. And it answers the question every resident actually asks: **"how far is that fire from MY place, and is it heading my way?"** — with an address pin, live distance, satellite spread direction, and the wind that drives it. A resident of Tonasket, Twisp, or Oroville gets more actionable local information here than anywhere else — all free, ad-free, and community-run.

THE HONEST GAP

Watch Duty's human verification layer is their strongest asset — our feeds are automated, so a "smoke check" here is raw dispatch information, not human-confirmed. Our growing Verified Reporter program is the answer: trained locals posting gold-shield field updates and geotagged photos directly from the ground.

GET INVOLVED

- **Donate** — every dollar covers servers and data feeds: okanoganhighlandsfirewatch.app/donate
- **Become a Verified Reporter** — trained locals post gold-shield field updates: okanoganhighlandsfirewatch.app/apply-reporter
- **Spread the word** — share the Daily Snapshot from the States & Provinces menu, or simply share okanoganhighlandsfirewatch.app