



## Port Hosts Firefighters

**Bingen, Washington** – The Port of Klickitat is hosting several hundred firefighters called up to fight the Highway 141 fire just north of White Salmon, Washington. Started on September 5, 2012, at approximately 1:30 pm, the fire has grown to over 1,000 acres and poses a threat to several dozen homes in the area.

Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste authorized the mobilization of state firefighting resources at 6:30 pm the same day and by the next day, the Incident Management Team began looking for a location for their command center.

“We received a call from the Central Washington Interagency Communications Center shortly before 4:00pm the afternoon of September 6,” said Port Executive Director Marc Thornsby. “They were looking at options, but were initially uncertain as to their exact needs. An hour later they knew what they wanted and asked to locate at the Port's Bingen Point Business Park. Port staff (who had already left for the day) volunteered to come back in and we began preparing to accommodate our 'guests'.”

Port tenants Kerrits Activewear and Plan 9 offered to clear unused space in their facilities so support teams could use it for work and meeting areas, Mountain Logging leveled two lots to make them suitable for parking equipment and vehicles, and Port staff made several areas of the Port office available for use as well.

“By 9:00pm we were ready for them,” said Thornsby. “We were told the first firefighters would begin arriving by 6:00am the next morning.” The ability to use the Port's phone system, Internet connection, and copier/fax machine is helping the Team's support staff function until their own systems and links can be installed in the next day or so.

“The protection of our homes, property, and forests is critical to the well-being of our communities,” said Port Commissioner Wayne Vinyard. “We are pleased to be able to assist the Incident Management Team and the hundreds of firefighters that are working long hours, and under very difficult circumstances, to safeguard our homes and natural resources. We are truly grateful for their service.”

Bingen Point was also the temporary home for as many as 800 firefighters during the Highway 8 Complex fire that burned over 2,000 acres near Lyle, Washington, in August, 2010.

### At A Glance...

**Who:**.....Port of Klickitat  
**What:**.....Highway 141 Fire  
**When:**.....Sep. 6, 2012  
**Where:**.....Bingen Point  
**Quick Facts:**.....At its peak, the Port expects as many as 600 firefighters to call its property at Bingen Point “home”. Empty office space and part of the Port offices will be used by incident management team support staff.

*For more information, please contact:*

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**About the Port of Klickitat**

Economic development, transportation, and marine-based recreation are key functions of the Port of Klickitat. These are achieved through leasing industrial-zoned property, developing and renting industrial and commercial facilities, developing and maintaining rail spurs and dock facilities, assisting companies with an interest in locating in Klickitat County, creating and managing marine-based recreational facilities, and working closely with various partner organizations and agencies.

The Port of Klickitat is located in Klickitat County, Washington and was created in 1944. It is one of several port authorities located in the mid-Columbia region. It owns two industrial parks and several buildings, leases industrial property and space, operates a barge dock, and holds property set aside for a park and marina. Transportation access is provided via rail, river barge, highways 14, 35, and 197, and Interstate 84. More information can be found on the Port's web site at [www.portofklickitat.com](http://www.portofklickitat.com).

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