



Forks Fire Update

July 21, 2009 6:30 PM

**Inyo National Forest Fire Information:
(760) 873-2503**

Fire Status: Active

Location: Bishop Creek Drainage
12 miles West of Bishop

Acres Burned: 3,268

Cause: Under Investigation

Date Started: July 18, 2009

Percent Contained: 85%

Containment Expected: 7/24/2009

Resources: Hand crews 17
Helicopters 6
Air Tankers Available on order

Engines 25
Water Tenders 1
Dozers 0

Total personnel assigned to fire: 564

A lightning storm moved quickly through the Eastern Sierra Saturday afternoon, July 18, 2009, igniting approximately 26 fires. The Forks Fire started at approximately 2:54 pm. The entire Bishop Creek drainage was evacuated with a mandatory evacuation of all residents and recreational facilities with State Route 168 closed. The Starlite development was placed on a voluntary evacuation.

The Bishop Creek Canyon Recreation Area was re-opened to residents and the public this afternoon, with the exception of the Bitterbrush Campground which is being used as a staging area for firefighters and will remain closed.

Firefighters worked on the hot areas along the perimeter of the fire this morning and by afternoon the only smoke that was visible came from the interior. Night crews will continue to improve and secure the fire line.

The public is advised to proceed with caution when traveling on State Route 168 due to the presence of firefighters and equipment and the possibility of falling rocks or debris on the road. Some forest roads that access the fire area will remain closed to the public until further notice.

Firefighter and Public Safety is our core value. All identified hazards will be mitigated or avoided.

Weather, Fire Behavior and Smoke Conditions:

Slight chance of thunderstorms are predicted.

Agencies Involved:

US Forest Service (USFS), California Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection (Cal-Fire), California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), BLM, Los Angeles DWP, Inyo County Sheriff, CHP, Caltrans, Fish & Wildlife, Bishop Fire Department, Big Pine Fire Department, Lone Pine Fire Department

Southern California Interagency Incident Management Team 2
Ron Woychak (USFS) Incident Commander

For more information on the web please go to: www.inciweb.org