

	<p>USDA Klamath National Forest 1711 S. Main Street, Yreka, CA 96097</p>	<h1>INFORMATION</h1>	<p>CAL FIRE 1809 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097 (530) 842-3516 www.fire.ca.gov</p>	
<p>Media Contact: Ian Shackleford (530) 841-4485</p>		<p>Fire Information Lines Klamath National Forest (530) 841-4451 CAL FIRE (530) 842-2266</p>	<p>Media Contact: Suzi Brady (530) 598-2622</p>	

June 6, 2016

Lightning causes local wildfires

Yreka, CA - A lightning storm moved across Siskiyou County Sunday night with 437 down strikes recorded. As of Monday morning the lightning had resulted in six small fires, three near Happy Camp, one in Pondosa, one in Scott Valley, and one between Gazelle and Callahan. All fires are staffed and currently being suppressed.

The three fires near Happy Camp are all on Klamath National Forest. Two fires, the Elk Fire and Lower Fire, are south of Happy Camp, on Titus Ridge. The Elk Fire is 1.5 acres. The Lower Fire is 3 acres, and near Curly Jack Campground. Both fires are contained and under suppression. The third fire, called Little Grider, is west of Happy Camp near Little Grider Creek. Little Grider fire is just 0.1 acre and also under suppression. The Salmon/Scott and Goosenest Ranger Districts also received lightning strikes Sunday night, but no fires have so-far been detected.

The US Forest Service and CAL FIRE work closely in response to incidents such as the Sunday night lightning strikes, commonly sharing equipment, crews, and aviation resources. US Forest Service crews responded to the fires near Happy Camp, with assistance from CAL FIRE. CAL FIRE responded to the fires at Pondosa, Scott Valley, and Gazelle.

Fire staff continues to monitor the landscape for any additional fires that may show over the next several days as a result of the recent lightning. Supplemental detection, in the form of Air Recon and mountain top lookouts continue to aid in the detection of new fires around the County. Please report any smoke or fire observations by calling 911.

High temperatures are expected to remain through Wednesday, with a chance of additional thunderstorms. Klamath National Forest Supervisor Patricia Grantham and Siskiyou Unit Chief Phillip Anzo remind everyone to be cautious during this warm weather; “The first week of June is unusual for the current high temperatures and fire activity. We can’t change the weather but we can do our part to prevent human-caused fire and fire prevention starts with you. One less spark, especially at times like this, can mean one less wildfire near our communities.”

To find out more about what you can do to prevent human caused, unwanted wildfires, please go to www.preventwildfireca.org.

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