



**U.S. Forest Service
Inyo National Forest
351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200
Bishop, CA 93514**

News Release

September 19, 2016

8:00 am

Media Contact: Deb Schweizer
(760) 873-2427

debraaschweizer@fs.fed.us

www.facebook.com/inyonf

Twitter: @inyoinfo



Owens River Fire Update

The Owens River Fire remains at 6,000 acres and 20% contained.

Last night, crews focused on the active western flank and worked on containing several spot fires and slop overs caused by the afternoon winds yesterday. Crews worked on containing these areas and hose lays were put in place. Crews monitored the southern flank and have begun mop up operations along the Owens River Road.

Today, crews will remain focused on containing these spot fires along the western flank to better strengthen this fireline. Crews will strengthen firelines, patrol, and mop up along the north, east and south flanks.

Today's weather remains hot and dry with the potential for increased winds from the southwest with a storm front passage.

Four uninhabited outbuildings and several pieces of heavy equipment were destroyed during the initial response yesterday.

The fire is burning along Owens River Road near Clark Canyon, east of Highway 395 in sagebrush and Jeffrey pine, and annual grasses.

The Big Springs Campground, Clark Canyon (a popular climbing area), and nearby ranches and developments have been evacuated. The Owens River Road and the Whitmore Springs Roads are closed and visitors are advised to avoid the Bald Mountain Road as well. *For your and fire crew safety, please avoid the fire area.*

Smoke is visible from locations throughout the Highway 395 corridor including Bishop, Mammoth Lakes, June Lake, and Lee Vining. It will settle in the valleys at night under the cool inversion layer.

There are 9 hand crews, 48 engines, 3 air tankers, 7 helicopters, 3 dozers, and 6 water tenders assigned to the fire. There are 483 people assigned to the incident.

The cause of the fire is under investigation but appears to be human-caused.

-xxx-