



United States Department of Agriculture

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# Fire Update

## MERIDIAN FIRE UPDATE

October 10, 2020

The Central Idaho Dispatch Zone is at **HIGH** Fire Danger.

On InciWeb @ <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7233/>

*This will be the last daily updated unless significant activity occurs.*

The Meridian Fire; reported October 5, is located approximately 22 miles south of Clayton in the Hunter Creek drainage on the Lost River Ranger District. The fire is established in the timber and remains approximately 485 acres in size and is burning in Douglas fir and grass. Fire cause is under investigation.

Firefighters observed moderate fire behavior yesterday. The fire is backing down slopes and flanking with single tree torching. Today, firefighters anticipate the fire to burn east down into Hunter Creek and to the northwest to East Pass Creek.

Firefighters are using a confine and contain strategy. Firefighters are continuing line construction on southern portion of the fire and monitoring the fire on the east and west sides of the fire where natural barriers will confine the fire. Firefighters have completed 7% containment along the southern portion of the fire. Firefighters anticipate favorable weather starting this afternoon which at that time will slow fire growth to the north. The fire is staffed with one (1) Type I crew and two (2) helicopters.

**CLOSURES:** The Salmon-Challis National Forest has implemented an emergency area closure (#04-13-20-014) to protect Forest visitors from the current fire safety hazards associated with the Meridian Fire. The following is closed:  
Area Described: The closure area is depicted on the map which can be found at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/map/7233/0/109523>. Roads and Trails Described: FS Road 477 Hunter Creek Road and FS Trail 050 Hunter Creek Trail. If you are recreating near an ongoing wildfire suppression operation, please keep your distance - do not congregate in the area and allow the firefighters to do their job safely and efficiently.

**WEATHER:** A large season-slowsing event is headed in the region by late this afternoon, but not before it increases the wind substantially from what was experienced last week. The storm is packing enough cold air to bring snow down to the 6200ft elevation; expect 2-4 inches at Galena Summit tonight. The wind will develop around noon, the humidity should increase during the mid-afternoon, and the clouds and rain arrive during the late afternoon. Much colder and high humidity for Sunday with strong wind returning.

Smoke from the Meridian Fire could be seen from the Ketchum area. Nationally, there are 38 uncontained large fires being managed under a full suppression strategy and 37 large fires managed under a strategy other than full suppression. These fires are contributing to the smoke, which has been drifting into the Salmon-Challis National Forest and the valleys around the Forest. The public can find further information on smoke at <http://airquality.deq.idaho.gov/> and <http://idsmoke.blogspot.com>.

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