



CALDOR FIRE



Frequently Asked Questions – Fire Containment and Repair

Q: *What is fire containment?*

A: Containment is a measure of the amount of line around a wildfire. It's as much a measure of linear footage as it is confidence. Line is a barrier to fire growth, such as bare mineral soil, rocky outcrop, burnt fuel or manmade zones like a hand dug line or bulldozer line. Under predicted circumstances, a fire can be expected to burn to the line, but not beyond.

Q: *When the fire is declared to be 100% contained, does that mean it is totally out and the public will be allowed back in the forest?*

A: No. There are many things to consider before a closure is lifted. Land management agencies may continue to limit access because the fire continues to burn within the interior and repair operations need to work unimpeded with heavy equipment. Hazardous trees, burned out tree stumps and other dangerous situations still exist in the closed area that individuals may not be aware of. Closures also can provide opportunities for the forest to “rest” and “recover” without additional impacts.

Q: *What is the incident management team doing since the fire is 100% contained?*

A: The fire might be contained, but now is the time for suppression repair. Over 400 miles of line was built during initial suppression efforts. Fire suppression repair is a series of immediate post-fire actions taken to repair damages and minimize potential soil erosion and impacts resulting from fire suppression activities. The actions are usually started in the burned area as soon as it is safe, especially for very large fires. Incident Management Teams work with the local unit to supply resources and personnel to implement repair as home agencies typically do not have the capacity to complete such a large task with their limited staff. This concept is the perfect example of many hands make light work.

Q: *What type of areas might need fire suppression repair work?*

A: Fire suppression repair work occurs anywhere the ground is disturbed during suppression operations. This could be a small two-foot-wide hand land or a 20-foot dozer fire line. Some roads are damaged by heavy equipment that need to be repaired to its previous state of use. Staging areas, places where firefighters install pumps or supply drop points can also require repair.

Q: *What are some examples of repair work?*

A: Repair work runs a broad spectrum of activity including:

- Installing water bars and other drainage diversions such as straw wattles to help stabilize the watershed
- Masticating and chipping debris and spreading slash and mulch to protect bare soils and allow for the increase of soil moisture

- Repairing damaged road drainages (culverts)

- Clearing stream channels and other structures from debris

- Removing hazardous trees

- Repairing damages to transportation system roads

- Removing hoses and pumps

Q: *Where can I get more information?*

A: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7801/>