

# NEWS RELEASE



## Sierra National Forest

For Immediate Release

Date: August 3, 2014 Time: 8:00 AM

### **French Fire**

**Location:** The fire is burning in the area between Rock Creek and Fish Creek campgrounds, in the San Joaquin River drainage, Bass Lake Ranger District, in the Sierra National Forest.

**Acres Burned:** 12,827

**Structures Threatened:** 134

**Containment:** 20%

**Structures Destroyed:** 0

**Fire Started:** July 28, 2014

**Injuries:** 1

**Cause:** Human

**Total personnel assigned to the Fire: 1560**

### Summary

The fire operation was completed on the southern end of the fire last night to secure containment lines down to the San Joaquin River. Direct fire line was also completed from Chiqito Creek to the 4S81 road on the northern perimeter. Fire crews are hoping to take advantage of cooler weather and higher humidity to construct direct fire line were possible on all open fire lines. Crews also continue to do structure defense in the Arnold Meadow area on the northern perimeter.

An investigation has concluded that an abandoned campfire near the Rock Creek Campground was the cause of the French Fire. The abandoned campfire was located towards the bottom of Rock Creek Road, near the San Joaquin River. Investigators are asking for the public's help for information about anyone who was seen in the area of Rock Creek Road near the San Joaquin River during the afternoon or evening of Sunday July 27.

The French Fire will continue to produce large amounts of smoke, which has impacted local communities. Smoke is typically greater in the morning and evening hours. Plan outdoor activities for times and places with low smoke levels. Up-slope breezes occur during the day, which will often take smoke into higher elevations. In the evening, these winds change direction and bring smoke down slope to lower elevations. For more information about smoke impacts, please visit the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Districts website at: <http://valleyair.org/wildfires.htm>

### Evacuations

Residents living in the community of Arnold Meadow were notified to evacuate due to increased fire activity along the northern perimeter of the fire. Several summer homes in the Hogue Apple Ranch and Wagner's Resort were evacuated earlier in the week.

### Closures

A Forest Service Area Road and Trail Closure, Forest Order # 15-14-07, has been issued for the French Fire area. More information about the Forest Closure and the closure can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/o44cvyu>.



## **South Central Sierra Interagency Incident Management Team**

**Fire Information: (559) 877-2605**

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**For additional information visit: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4013/>**