

NEWS RELEASE

Sierra National Forest



For Immediate Release

Date: July 29th, 2015 8:00 AM

Willow Fire

Location: Northeast of North Fork, Bass Lake Ranger District, in the Sierra National Forest.

Acres Burned: 2,077

Structures Threatened: 450

Containment: 30%

Structures Destroyed: 0

Fire Started: July 25th, 2015

Injuries: 2 (Heat related)

Cause: Under investigation

Total personnel assigned to the Fire: 1487

Summary

The fire remained active throughout the night as it continued to burn into the scar of the North Fork Fire of 2001. Firefighters will continue with the construction of direct and in-direct containment lines today. Air resources will continue to support handcrews as soon as smoke conditions clear and allow for safe aerial operations. With the re-opening of Road 274, the public is reminded to drive with caution as firefighting equipment will be traveling along local roads into the Willow Fire area.

High temperatures and low relative humidity are expected in the fire area again today. Another weather system is expected over the fire area in the next few days with anticipated dry thunderstorms on Thursday.

The communities surrounding the Willow Fire can expect to see smoke throughout the day and into the evening. Outdoor activities should be planned for times when smoke levels are low. Upslope winds occur during the day, which will often take smoke into higher elevations. In the evening these winds change direction and bring smoke back downslope. For more information about the smoke impact, please visit the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District website at <http://valleyair.org/wildfires.htm>.

Evacuations

The Central Camp area and Douglas Station Rd above Trails End was evacuated due to the fire.

Road Closures

Willow Canyon Road and Central Camp Road are closed at Hwy 274. Beasore Road is closed at Central Camp Rd. Autumn Ridge Road is closed at Hwy 223. Douglas Station Road is closed at Trails Ends. All road closure are until further notice.

Campground Closures

Gaggs, Whiskers, and Whiskey Falls campgrounds are closed.



South Central Sierra Interagency Incident Management Team

Fire Information: (559) 877-7449

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For additional information visit: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4413/>