



Wednesday, August 19, 2015 – EVENING UPDATE

Joint Information Center Hotlines: 541-820-3643 or 541-820-3633

Canyon Creek Complex Update

Next Community Meeting: 5:30 pm Thursday, August 20 at Grant Union High School's old gym

JOHN DAY, Ore. – Fire activity on the southeast portion of the Canyon Creek Complex prompted Grant County Sheriff's Office to issue new evacuation orders. The area north and west of County Road 62 to the junction of Forest Road 16 and 15 is in a level 3 evacuation. The Strawberry Mountain Wilderness remains in a closure. CR 62 and Forest Road 16 are open for through travel, at this time. Level 1 area evacuations were initiated for the Seneca area due to increased fire behavior on the southern portion of the fire.

The Canyon Creek Complex hosted a visit from the Oregon State Governor Kate Brown, Oregon Department of Forestry Doug Decker, and USDA Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell. They toured the fireline, attended a meeting with homeowners, and then were briefed by fire personnel on the current fire conditions.

The Canyon Creek Fire was mapped via infrared at 48,201 acres overnight. Primary growth today was on the southern and western flanks.

Today, firefighters were successful in strengthening and maintaining fireline on several portions of the fire. Crews worked on the line bordering the Strawberry Wilderness Area on the north end of the fire. Good progress was made on the west side of the fire from south of Canyon City to Fall Mountain. In the Vance Creek area, firefighters corralled two slop overs outside the main fire perimeter.

Additional engines from the Oregon Department of Forestry will be assisting resources on the southern portion of the fire with suppression activities and protection of private property.

A Red Flag warning will be in effect tomorrow through Friday due to low relative humidity and gusting north-northwest winds. A Haines Index of 5, which predicts instability, will increase the potential for plume-dominated activity.

A Recovery Group staffed with Oregon Department of Transportation crews will continue to work along the Highway 395 corridor removing hazardous trees and material on or near the roadway. Highway 395 is closed, but remains a high priority to reopen as soon as possible.

The Red Cross is providing financial and relief services for displaced residents. Those wishing to make monetary donations can contact the American Red Cross Mountain River Chapter at redcross.org/cascades or in person at the shelter located on Ingle Street in Mt. Vernon. The Red Cross is opening a service center at the LDS Church in John Day from 1-4 p.m.

Closures

An emergency fire closure is in effect in the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness area. A copy of the closure

order and map is available at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4495/> Forest Service personnel have assisted with escorting campers and other recreationalists out high-use areas, coordinating with Grant County Sheriff's Office and other local agencies to facilitate the closure.

Fire activity will likely have some affect on hunting, for more information contact- <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/>

Additional information on the Canyon Creek Complex can be found on Inciweb at: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4495/>.

Please be advised of increased fire traffic and smoky conditions throughout the area. Forest officials ask that the public stay clear of all fire activities.

Additional fire information can be found at JDIDC - BICC sites online at: <http://bicc-jdidc.org/index.shtml>.

For more information on the Malheur National Forest, please visit us at www.fs.usda.gov/malheur, follow [U.S. Forest Service- Malheur National Forest](#) on Facebook, and follow [@MalheurNF](#) on Twitter for all the latest forest news.

To report a fire, contact the John Day Interagency Dispatch Center at 541-575-1321 or the Burns Interagency Communication Center at 541-573-1000.

Email Address: canyoncreekcomplex@gmail.com
Facebook: Great Basin National Incident Management Team 1
Inciweb: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4495/>

