



Canyon Creek Complex Morning Fact Sheet August 29, 2015

Fire Information: (541) 820-3643 or (541) 820-3633
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Facebook: www.facebook.com/canyoncreekfireoregon and
www.facebook.com/malheurnationalforest
Malheur NF www.fs.usda.gov/malheur/
Inciweb: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4495/>
Twitter: @MalheurNF
Air Quality Index: <http://oregonsmoke.blogspot.com/>
Malheur Hunting Info: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/malheur/news-events/?cid=STELPRD3852316>

High Winds Push Fire North and East, Forcing Evacuations Red Flag Warning Today for Very High Winds Will Increase Fire Activity

Type of Incident: Wildfire
Cause: Lightning
Date of Origin: August 12, 2015
Location: One mile south of the towns of John Day and Canyon City, Oregon.
Types of Fuel: Timber with brush/grass understory; areas of logging slash.
Structures Threatened: 75
Structures Damaged: 50
Residences Destroyed: 40
Other Structures Destroyed: 11
Current Size: 87,145 acres
Percent Containment: 44%
Number of Personnel: 853
Types of resources: 2 Type 1 crews, 14 Type 2 crews, 9 helicopters, 74 engines, 17 dozers, 23 water tenders, 11 skidgines

Canyon Creek Complex Recent Activities;

Evacuations

- Prairie City from the John Day River south is at a Level 3 evacuation status.
- Road 62 north from the Forest boundary to Prairie City is at a Level 3 evacuation status.
- Upper Strawberry is at a Level 3 evacuation status.
- **Evacuees can go immediately to the Mt. Vernon Grange Hall. The Mount Vernon Community Center will be available as a shelter after 4 p.m.**

Weather today

- Red Flag Warning for high winds and low relative humidity. The fire will be tested again today with continued strong southwest winds. Hot and dry conditions along with unstable air mass will persist. Anticipate smoke columns and aggressive fire movement.

Planned Actions Include:

- Firefighters are actively suppressing fire on the north and east end to protect Prairie City, as well as structures in Indian Creek, Strawberry Road, and Pine Creek, Indian and Prairie City areas.
- Resources from the south and west sides of the fire have moved to the priority areas on the northeast side of the fire.
- Crews will continue to improve and hold dozer and hand lines in the Pine and Indian Creek areas utilizing direct attack methods where possible.
- Air tankers and helicopters will be used on a priority basis, as wind conditions allow.
- Crews on the southeast flank of the fire near Road's End completed tying in lines into existing roads and trail systems and are working to strengthen firelines.
- Oregon National Guard troops are working in the Parrish Cabin area to continue securing fireline.
- Fire suppression repair will continue on the western and southern flanks from John Day to Parrish Cabin, rehabilitating dozer lines, fixing fences and putting in water bars to reduce erosion.
- Oregon Trails Electric Coop continues to restore power to residences along Hwy 395.

UPDATE:

Task-Forces from the Office of State Fire Marshals continue to work structure protection in the Pine Creek, Indian Creek and Dog Creek areas.

A residence was consumed by the Canyon Creek Complex fire on Mahogany Ridge Road yesterday afternoon.

Significant weather events have been the driving factor in the fire's progress. Extremely low relative humidity and unpredictable high winds are creating extreme fire conditions. Also, a Red Flag has been declared by the NWS for today. These conditions are causing rapid fire spread through difficult terrain.

Both wildland and structure protection assets have been working together to cut line and perform strategic operations to control the fire spread away from structures.

In addition to the structure protection mission, the safety of crews and the public in this region continues to be a major focus. Access into these areas is limited and difficult with few escape routes and safety zones for firefighters.

Oregon Dept. of Transportation (ODOT): Highway 395 is open for two-way travel. Due to firefighters, equipment and the power company on the road, a pilot car will lead traffic in specific areas between 6 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Anticipate delays.

Oregon National Guard: Six twenty-person National Guard squads are stationed at the Lake Creek Organizational Camp. They will be contributing to the Canyon Creek Complex fire suppression efforts.

Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER): A BAER team has been ordered and will begin to conduct a water shed assessment of the area in order to plan rehabilitation of fire lines and mitigate soil erosion.

Weather: Hot and dry conditions are expected today. A strong cold front pushed through late last night producing wind gusts in excess of 40 mph and will continue to move across the area Saturday, August 29. Winds will shift to the southwest behind the front with potential for westerly winds late Saturday night.

Air Quality Index: Anticipate varying levels of smoke. For more specific information visit Oregon Smoke Information at <http://oregonsmoke.blogspot.com>.

See Evacuation Information on the Evacuation Update