



Salmon-Challis National Forest Fire Update Monday, September 12, 2011



Contact Fire Information: 208.756.5177

***** RED FLAG WARNING *****

OVERVIEW: Two new fires have been reported on the Forest this morning. One is in the 12 Mile area and the other is in the Porter Creek area. Fire resources are en route to size up each fire. One engine is still patrolling the Black Canyon Fire, which is now being managed by a Type 4 Incident Commander. A Red Flag Warning has been issued by the National Weather Service for thunderstorms and gusty outflow winds today.

Area closures remain in effect for the following fires: Saddle Complex, Salt, Velvet, Ship Island and Alpine. These closures are being monitored on a daily basis by local fire managers. Residents and recreationalists are urged to check area closures before heading out.

SALT FIRE: Once again, the Lemhi County Sheriff has downgraded the Level 2 evacuation order to a Level 1 evacuation which requires that residents be prepared for possible evacuations. The area closure is still in effect; however, residents may be allowed to enter the closure area with the proper escort.

On Sunday, the Salt Fire was most active in the Woodtick and Salt Creek drainages. Groups of trees were torching and the fire created spot fires up to ¼ of a mile away from the main fire and made short runs. Torching occurs when an entire tree, or clump of trees, goes up in flames, but the fire does not spread to the adjacent crowns.

Today crews will hold and control existing fire lines. Some preliminary rehabilitation will take place where firefighters have built line and fire is holding.

Resources: 6 Helicopters; 18 Engines; 3 Dozers; 14 Water Tenders; 7 Crews; 426 Total Personnel.
Start Date: 25 August **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 20,163 acres

SADDLE COMPLEX: Fire behavior on the Saddle Complex was moderated yesterday morning by a heavy inversion. Afternoon thunder cells did bring gusty winds, as well as lower temperatures and higher humidity. The strong winds did cause an increase in fire activity around 2 p.m., and a Type 1 helicopter was requested to provide support to ground firefighters working near Gattin Ranch.

Some group tree torching was observed near Oreana Lookout. A pump and sprinklers are still in place near the Lookout and have also been installed around Blue Nose Lookout now.

The new road closures took effect yesterday morning. Squaw Creek Road and the lower portions of Colson Creek and Spring Creek Roads are now open to the public.

Today crews will continue hand ignitions along the Horse Creek Road to prevent unburned pockets of forest lands between the road and the main fire.

Resources: 3 Crews; 5 Engines; 1 Water Tender; 100 Total Personnel
Start Date: 10 August **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 31,412 acres (Idaho: 16,247)

VELVET FIRE: There is little to report on the Velvet Fire. It has grown only minimally in the past couple of days, and the growth has been away from the Middle Fork of the Salmon River.

Resources: 2 Total Personnel

Start Date: 12 August

Cause: Lightning

Size: 2,700 acres

SHIP ISLAND FIRE: There was no significant growth on the Ship Island Fire yesterday despite erratic winds from passing thunderstorms. However, the fire was active late into the evening, particularly low in the Ship Island drainage. The high relative humidity reading during the night was only 44% and there was no precipitation over the fire area.. The fire is being monitored by firefighters from Stoddard Lookout. The Middle Fork Boat Crew and a squad of firefighters will begin another float down the Middle Fork of the Salmon River on Wednesday to act as a point of contact for boaters. The fire is being managed to return fire to the ecosystem as a natural partner. The Parrot Placer Camp (river right) is still closed.

Resources: 1 Crew; 17 Total Personnel

Start Date: 25 August

Cause: Lightning

Size: 1,850 acres

To learn about how to better prepare your home to withstand a wildfire, go to www.idahofirewise.org. For more information on area closures and on fires burning on the Salmon-Challis National Forest, visit <http://www.inciweb.org/unit/46/>.