

News Release

June 21, 2012 9:00 a.m. (MST)

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www.INCIWEB.ORG



*** PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULED ***

Friday, June 22nd beginning at 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Location: Converse County Courthouse Community Room

Fire managers and Incident Commander Todd Pechota

will give operational updates and answer questions in regards to the fire.

Fire Crews Gain Ground in Cooler Temperatures

Fire crews were able to gain ground and work towards containment figures on Wednesday at the Russell's Camp Fire. Cooler temperatures and higher humidity kept fire progression and behavior at a minimum. Progress was made on all areas of the fire. Hand lines and dozer lines were constructed and reinforced. Lower temperatures and higher relative humidity's have temporarily lessened fire behavior, spread and intensity. Isolated torching and moderate rates of spread were observed on Wednesday, along with short range spotting. Heavy equipment arrived and began working in areas north of the fire. The incident helibase was moved from the Douglas airport to a location closer to fire. Five additional Type 2 hand crews, along with one Type 1 hot shot crew arrived and will begin work on the fire.

Thursday's activities will include the following:

- Division A (south/east): Crews will continue to work directly along the fire edge where possible. Small pockets of unburned fuel may be burned out today, if conditions allow, assisting firefighter efforts. Three crews will be added to continue line construction towards Squaw Mountain.
- Division D (west): Dozer line will be constructed. Areas in this division are rough and rocky and may pose a challenge. Two crews will be working to put in hand line along with dozer line. Helicopter operations will continue as necessary. Fuels in this division consist of heavy dead and down fuels with subalpine fir in the lower areas. An additional crew has been assigned to this division.
- Division F (northwest): The retardant drop made earlier in the week has helped hold the fire line. Crews will be going direct with the fire, and continuing to scout on the northwest side. Type 1 helicopters will be used to hold the fire line so that crews can complete operations. Two additional crews have been assigned to this division.
- Division L (northeast) is being monitored. Current the fire is burning in an area that is mostly rocky. One additional crew has been assigned to this division.
- Air Operations: Aircraft will continue to work all areas of the fire where they can be the most efficient. The new location of the helibase will decrease travel time for equipment which will increase the number of buckets that can be put on the fire. A total of five helicopters will be assisting in suppression efforts.
- Road Closures:
 - Road blocks will be in place on the road near the Converse County and Albany County line. County Road #62 (Little Medicine Road) and County Road#24 (Cold Springs Road) will be blocked off to non-residents. Motorists are asked to find alternate travel routes.
 - Near the bottom of Cold Springs Road and a portion of the Box Elder Road near Breakneck Hill.
- Evacuations:
 - There is no serious threat to the Fetterman Road. Residents living along this area can return to their homes/cabins. If conditions were to change voluntary evacuations will be reinstated.

- Volunteer evacuations are still in place for homes/cabins along Meadow Creek Road, and Cold Springs Road south of Meadow Creek Road.

Fire stats at a glance:

Start Date: June 17th, 2012

Containment: 5%

Cause: Under investigation/Possible Lightning

Acreage: 2,756

Personnel: 385

Crews: 7 **Cooperating Agencies:** Converse County, USFS, State of Wyoming

Aviation :(3) Type 1, (1) Type 2 & (1) Type 3 Helicopters

Engines: 20

Injuries: 2 (minor heat related, knee injury)

Structures destroyed: 0

Structures/outbuildings threatened: 20

Additional information on the incident, maps, photos and area closures can be found at www.INCIWEB.org.

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Updates/Photos posted at:

- **Websites:**
www.INCIWEB.org
- **Twitter:**
@RMIMT2_TeamB
@MBRNFsTBNG
@WyoStForestry