

News Release

June 24, 2012 9:00 a.m. (MST)

Contact: Laura McConnell, PIO

www.INCIWEB.ORG

Information office 307-212-4844*

*Staffed 8:00 a.m. – 8 p.m.



Fire burns hot into the night – Crews prepare for another challenging day

Fire activity on Saturday proved challenging as firefighters worked to hold lines and secure line that had been put in place. Fire spread moved towards the northeast in Division L creating numerous spot fires across contingency lines. Additional dozer line has been put in northeast of Division L. The fire has advanced through the Buffalo Creek area and continues to advance northeast towards Standing Rock Creek. Fire behavior was active throughout the day; crown runs, group torching and long range spotting were observed. Flames lengths up to 12 feet were seen in areas around the fire.

Firefighters are facing another hot, dry and windy day. A Red Flag Warning is in place and with predicted winds of 15-20 miles per hour predicted. This morning will be partly cloudy, with mid-level moisture forming. There is a slight chance of thunderstorms this afternoon but little to no moisture is expected. The changing weather today may produce a pyrocumulus cloud¹ formation. A pyrocumulus, or fire cloud, is formed from thermal combustion. This cloud causes convection and may produce defined vertical development of a plume.

Today's operations will include:

Division A (south/east): **Division D** (west): **Division F** (northwest): Crews will continue to hold and improve lines.

Division L (north/northeast) has been split into two divisions. Division L will cover the northeast side of the fire, and the new Division N will cover the north portion of the fire.

Division L: (northeast) Crews will continue to work along the dozer lines. Burn out operations may take place as conditions allow. The structure protection group will continue to mitigate hazards around structures. Additional dozer line is in place on the northeast corner.

Division N: (north) Crews will continue to improve dozer lines, and hold areas.

Air Operations: Aviation resources are available to assist fire crews as needed. This morning they will be flying missions to update firefighters with supplies.

Staffed road closures are in place and closed to all recreation traffic. We ask that the public respect the need for the closures and find alternate routes of travel. Please be aware of heavy traffic related to the incident along Cold Springs Road. 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). Closures in place 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. Residents who choose to evacuate their homes are asked to contact the Converse County Sheriff's Office to advise them.

Fire stats at a glance:

Start Date: June 17th, 2012

Containment: 10%

Cause: Under investigation/Possible Lightning

Acreage: 5,232

Personnel: 582

Crews: 16

Cooperating Agencies: Converse County, USFS, State of Wyoming

Aviation: (4) Type 1, (1) Type 2 & (2) Type 3 Helicopters

Engines: 20

Injuries: 2 (minor heat related, knee injury)

Structures destroyed: 0

Structures/outbuildings threatened: 20

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MEDIA NOTES:

Afternoon media releases will be done and posted to InciWeb as needed. Only morning releases will be sent via email. Both will be posted to InciWeb.

Fire personnel will be available in front of Safeway in Douglas, Wyoming from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. starting today to answer questions in regards to current status of the fire.

Twitter: @RMIMT2_TeamB @MBRNFsTBNG @WyoStForestry

ⁱ Pyrocumulus Cloud: Type of cumulus cloud that forms over a heat source such as a wildland fire. Wikipedia: <http://tinyurl.com/PYROCUMULUS>