

# News Release

June 26, 2012 9:00 a.m. (MST)

Contact: Laura McConnell, PIO

[www.INCIWEB.ORG](http://www.INCIWEB.ORG)

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\*Staffed 8:00 a.m. – 8 p.m. (24 hour recorded message)



## Cooler Weather Provides Needed Break to Fire Crews

Monday's suppression activities on the Russell's Camp Fire went well. Crews continued to hold and patrol areas where previous shifts had completed burn out operations. Cooler temperatures and windy conditions did not hamper fire operations. A late afternoon thunder storm brought strong winds and rain to the Incident Command Post (ICP) location, however little to no moisture was received on the fire. Lightning was observed and aviation assets were temporarily halted.

Red Flag Warnings are in place again today through Wednesday. A stationary front is over the area due to a high pressure and low pressure front. Strong winds from the southwest will be increasing throughout the day peaking at 30-40 miles per hour (mph) with gusts up to 45 mph. There is a slight chance of thunderstorms late in the day. Gusting, swirling winds today are anticipated to test all containment lines. Increased fire behavior is expected today with the hot, dry, windy weather returning. With the increased winds snags<sup>i</sup> and rolling debris continue to be a safety concern.

Today's operations will include:

**Division A** (south/east): **Division D** (west): **Division F** (northwest): Crews will continue to hold and improve lines. Crews will also begin mopping up<sup>ii</sup> in areas of containment in these divisions. Division F will be patrolled by aviation resources.

**Division L:** (northwest) Dozers will work to improve all lines within the division. Crews will determine times, and locations, when safe options exist to apply direct fire suppression tactics. Steep rocky terrain is presenting challenges to firefighters. Operations personnel continue to evaluate safe and effective ways to complete containment lines in this area.

**Division N:** (northeast) Engines/structure group will be assisting with operations today. Mop up will begin in some areas of this division. There is still potential for fire spread in the area.

**Air Operations:** Aviation resources are available to assist fire crews as needed. Sling load missions to remove supplies that are no longer needed will continue today as necessary. Bucket work will be provided as operational needs persist.

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:** 35%**Cause:** Under investigation/Possible Lightning**Acreage:** 5,465**Personnel:** 624**Crews:** 16**Cooperating Agencies:** Converse County, USFS, State of Wyoming**Aviation:** (4) Type 1, (1) Type 2 & (2) Type 3 Helicopters**Engines:** 33**Dozers:** 2**Water Tenders:** 4**Injuries:** 2 (minor heat related, knee injury)**Structures destroyed:** 0**Structures/outbuildings threatened:** 20**Unit Identifiers:** 138 (number of agencies/units assisting)

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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. Due to the increase of fire activity in the nation there has been an impact to the InciWeb site. If you experience difficulties the news releases will be posted at:

<http://tinyurl.com/NewsRussellsCampFire>.

Fire personnel will be available in front of Pamida in Douglas, Wyoming from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. starting today to answer questions in regards to current status of the fire.

**Twitter:** @RMIMT2\_TeamB @MBRNFsTBNG @WyoStForestry

<sup>i</sup> Snag – A standing dead tree or part of a dead tree from which at least the leaves and smaller branches have fallen.

<sup>ii</sup> Mopping Up – Extinguishing or removing burning material near the control lines, felling snags, and trenching logs to prevent rolling after a fire has burned, to make a fire safe, or to reduce residual smoke. NWCG Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology: <http://tinyurl.com/WildlandFireTerms>