

Squirrel Creek Fire

Update
July 4, 2012
8:00 a.m.

Location: Medicine Bow National Forest, Albany County, Wyoming

Date of Fire Start: June 30, 2012 1:00 p.m.

Cause: Under Investigation **Size:** 9,085 acres **Containment:** 12 percent

Management: California Interagency Incident Management Team 4, Rocky Opliger, Incident Commander

Cooperating Agencies: Albany County Rural Fire District #1, Wyoming State Forestry Services, Albany County Sheriff's Department, Laramie Fire Department, Bureau of Land Management, American Cross, Wyoming Highway Patrol

Fire Status: Type 1 hotshot crews worked through the night, taking advantage of less active fire behavior, and making significant progress containing the eastern flank of the fire, along Sheep Mountain. The south-west portion of the fire burned actively through the night, with observations of single tree and group tree torching.

Additional crews and aircraft that arrived at the fire yesterday will be put to work today constructing fireline along the south-west flank of the fire, the top priority for fire-fighting efforts today. An east wind is expected today, shifting to a south south-east wind in the afternoon. This is a change from yesterday's winds, which were largely from the south-west. Also, today's weather is calling for increased cloud cover and the potential for wet thunder storms over the fire area.

The addition of a variety of aircraft made a significant difference in fighting the fire yesterday, and these resources will continue today to assist crews working on the ground today. Aircraft available for fire support include a COBRA, which has the capability of mapping the fire using infra-red technology, Canadian air tankers, two MAFFS (Military Aerial Fire Fighting Support) planes, and a variety of helicopters. Having this variety of aircraft available allows for putting the most appropriate resources in the right location at the right time to most safely and effectively support crews on the ground.

Structures Destroyed: Three outbuildings and one residence have been destroyed by the Squirrel Creek Fire. No additional structures were destroyed by the fire yesterday.

Evacuation and Closure Update: An evacuation center has been established at the Albany County Fairgrounds. For evacuation and road closure information please go to the Albany County, Wyoming website: <http://www.co.albany.wy.us/> Call 1-888-425-7138 for Road Closure information only. **For Livestock Evacuations** contact Dale Bratton-Wyoming Livestock Board (307) 777-6437.

Further information may be obtained by going to <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/2970/> or by calling: (307) 721-4445 between 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

