

Squirrel Creek Fire

Update
July 6, 2012
8:00 a.m.

Location: Medicine Bow National Forest, Albany County, Wyoming

Date & Time of Fire Start: June 30, 2012 1:00 p.m. **Cause:** Human Caused

Size: 11,142 acres **Containment:** 55 percent

Estimated Containment Date: July 7, 2012

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

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

Fire Status: A very small amount of rain fell over the fire area last night, however this small amount of moisture did allow fire activity to subside throughout the night. The top priority for today's operations will be containing the south-west portion of the fire, south of Lake Owen and on the south-east flank of Lake Mountain. Today's weather calls for a shift in winds, which are expected to come out of the north-east. Erratic winds associated with thunderstorms will likely challenge fire containment efforts again today, as the fire continues to burn in historically dry fuels. On the north end of the fire, crews will be flown in to Sheep Mountain to secure the fireline and prevent further western and northern movement of the fire in this area. Both helicopters, using buckets to drop water, and air tankers, dropping fire retardant, will continue to be available today to support firefighting efforts on the ground.

Resources:

Hand Crews: 28 Engines: 38 Dozers: 3 Water Tenders: 5 Helicopters: 5
Total Personnel: 716

Evacuation and Closure Update: The evacuation center located at the Albany County Fairgrounds will be closing today at 4:00 p.m. Evacuation and road closure information may be found at: <http://www.co.albany.wy.us/> . For Livestock Evacuations contact Dale Bratton, Wyoming Livestock Board, at (307) 777-6437. For Road Closure information call 1-888-425-7138.

To provide for public safety, the Medicine Bow National Forest has closed the following areas to public access: areas North of Highway 230; areas east of Forest Road 512 (Platte Access Road) between Hwy. 230 and the junction of Forest Road 512 and 517; areas south and east of Forest Road 517 (Dry Park Road); the Fox Creek Road between Highway 11 and Highway 230; and all National Forest System lands surrounding Sheep Mountain.

Public Meeting: A public meeting to provide an update on the fire situation will be held at Laramie Junior High School (1355 N. 22nd, Laramie) tonight at 7:00 p.m.

Further information, including photos and maps, please go to <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/2970/> or <http://wildlandfire.info> . Fire Information Officers may be reached by calling: (307) 721-4445 between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.