



# Tahoe National Forest American Fire Update

Friday, August 16, 2013 – 9 p.m.

For further information visit:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/tahoe/> or <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3624/>

Info Center: 530-367-6223

Hours of Operation: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Fire Name:** American

**Location:** Approximately 8 air miles northeast of Foresthill, CA in the Tahoe National Forest in a remote area with steep, rugged terrain.

**Current Size:** 9,726 acres      **Containment:** 37 percent      **Structures Destroyed:** 3 outbuildings

**Resources:** Approximately 1,400 personnel including 41 hand crews, 47 engines, 36 water tenders, 19 dozers, 8 helicopters, and air tankers as available.

**Start/Reported Date:** 8/10/2013 in the afternoon and reported via the Duncan Peak Lookout Tower.

**Cause:** Under Investigation

## **Current Information:**

- Because of the fire's projected growth and limited access and resource availability, a Type I team has been ordered, and the team transition is expected to take place over the weekend.
- Today the fire crossed the Foresthill Divide Road into the Whisky Hill area. Extensive spotting and rolling took place.
- Full suppression efforts remain in progress.
- No populated areas are threatened, including the Foresthill community.
- A mobile retardant batch plant is operational at the airport in Blue Canyon.
- The fire is burning in steep terrain in dense timber in an area that has not burned in several decades, which is contributing to the heavy smoke. Changing weather patterns are likely to affect fire behavior and smoke dispersal patterns.
- The Forest, Tribes, industry, local agencies, and private landowners are collaborating to establish a strategy and tactics to minimize impacts on resources and local communities.
- Firefighter and public safety remain the first priorities.

## **Advisories:**

- The Tahoe National Forest issued a closure order for the fire area that is posted on the Forest Web site at <http://tinyurl.com/mvx4w3c>.
- The Placer County Sheriff has closed the Foresthill Divide Road beginning at China Wall OHV Staging Area, which is northeast of Foresthill.
- Air quality is affected in a wide area surrounding the fire area. During the day, areas north and northeast of the fire are likely to experience higher smoke concentration while evening smoke inversions are expected to push smoke into areas downslope of the fire. People should take appropriate precautions concerning smoke. Several counties have issued air quality advisories.