



Tahoe National Forest American Fire Update

Monday, August 19, 2013 – 9 a.m.

For further information visit:

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

Info Center: 530-367-6223 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.



Fire Name: American

Location: Approximately 10 air miles northeast of Foresthill, CA, and eight miles south of Interstate 80 in steep, rugged terrain. The majority of the fire area is in a remote area of the Tahoe National Forest within the North Fork Middle Fork American River drainage.

Current Size: 14,765 acres **Containment:** 49 percent **Structures Destroyed:** 3 outbuildings

Resources: Total personnel: 1,851, including 51 hand crews, 75 engines, 42 water tenders, 36 dozers, 12 helicopters, and air tankers as available

Start Date: 8/10/2013

Cause: Under Investigation

Current Information:

Heavy smoke shaded the fire yesterday, moderating fire behavior. Backing fire with single and group tree torching was observed. On the northeast corner a spot fire was quickly contained by firefighters as they made good progress with hand lines and dozer lines. Along the eastern portion of the fire last night, firefighters conducted a firing operation, meaning they used fire to reduce unburned fuel between the fire line and the main fire. The center portion of the east flank was still very active during the day, but indirect containment lines remained secure. On the extreme south end, firefighters will begin building a very steep hand line today, which descends to the river. The west side of the fire was relatively inactive. Mop-up is occurring in this area, which involves checking the interior of the fire to ensure no hot spots remain that may threaten the containment lines.

Firefighters continue to be concerned about dry fuels that have not seen fire in over a century, as well as any winds over 5 mph, and rolling burning debris, all of which could cause a rapid spread of the fire.

The National Weather Service has issued a Red Flat Warning for the fire area beginning at 11 a.m. today and extending through 11 p.m. Wednesday. This Warning is due to the threat of abundant lightning and gusty, erratic outflow winds. Significant rainfall and flooding in and around the fire is also possible over the next three days.

Advisories:

Duncan Peak Lookout and Robinson Camp were closed yesterday, and a voluntary evacuation of Big Oak Flat was recommended. The Placer County Sheriff has closed the Foresthill Divide Road beginning past the turnoff to Christmas Tree Lodge, which is northeast of Foresthill. The Tahoe National Forest has issued a closure order for the fire area that is posted on the Forest Web site at <http://tinyurl.com/mvx4w3c>.

Air quality is affected in a wide area surrounding the fire, and several counties have issued air quality advisories. People with respiratory problems should avoid exposure to smoke, if possible.

There will be a public meeting tonight at 7 p.m. in the Foresthill Veterans Memorial Hall, 24601 Harrison St., Foresthill, CA.

At 6 a.m. today, management of the fire was transferred to the California Interagency Management Team 4.

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