



Tahoe National Forest American Fire Update

Tuesday, August 20, 2013 – 9 p.m.

For further information visit:

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

Info Center: 530-367-8020 (new number) 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.



Fire Name: American

Location: The fire is approximately 10 air miles northeast of Foresthill, CA, in steep, rugged terrain. While the fire is predominantly burning on the Tahoe National Forest within the North Fork of the Middle Fork American River drainage, there is a potential, given changes in weather or fire behavior, for the fire to threaten areas near Foresthill.

Current Size: 15,715 acres **Containment:** 62 percent **Structures Destroyed:** 3 outbuildings

Resources: 51 hand crews, 72 engines, 42 water tenders, 46 dozers, 16 helicopters, and air tankers as available. Total personnel: 1,822

Start Date: 8/10/2013 **Cause:** Under Investigation

Current Information:

Today was warmer than yesterday, with little cloud cover. In spite of that, fire activity was light to moderate over most of the fire. On the southwest corner firefighters were able to use direct attack on the fire front. Indirect line construction also continued. The west flank was quiet, and containment line was deepened. On the north side crews patrolled and mopped up to a depth of 100 to 150 feet.

A firing operation was initiated above the head of Manila Canyon, but was shut down due to shading from a smoke column emanating from lower down the canyon. Crews plan to resume this firing operation late tonight, to reduce fuel ahead of the main fire while dozers work throughout the night building contingency line on Barney Cavanah Ridge.

Another focus area for firefighters tonight and tomorrow is holding and improvement of direct line on the extreme south end of the fire, using hand crews and dozers where safe to do so.

The National Weather Service's Red Flag Warning remains in effect until 11 p.m. Wednesday. Firefighters remain alert for possible thunderstorms with erratic, gusty outflow winds this evening.

Advisories:

The Foresthill Divide Road remains closed at China Wall OHV Staging Area. The Tahoe National Forest has issued a new closure order for the fire area encompassing a larger portion of the National Forest. See "Robinson Flat Closure Order" at <http://tinyurl.com/n292hix>. Smoke continues to adversely affect air quality. For more smoke information see:

www.placer.ca.gov/apcd or Northern California Smoke Information at:

<http://northcasmoke.blogspot.com/>.

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