

Douglas Complex Fire Update

Oregon Department of Forestry Team 2- Dennis Sifford, Incident Commander
Oregon State Fire Marshal Office Green Team – John Ingrao, Incident Commander
Phone Numbers: 541-832-0136; 541-832-0137
Douglas County Information Number: 888-459-3830
Hours of operation: 8:00 am – 9:00 pm



July 31, 2013

9:00 am

Special Message:

Evacuations are still in effect for Reuben Road, Mt. Reuben Road and McCullough Creek Road in Douglas County. Josephine County is also continuing evacuations for Poorman Creek, Lower Graves Creek Road, Graves Creek Road, and Lower Wolf Creek.

On Tuesday the Governor declared a State of Emergency for Josephine and Douglas Counties.

Current Situation: The Douglas Complex has added a fourth branch to the complex – the Complex currently consists of Milo, on the east side of Interstate 5; Rabbit Mountain, on the west side of Interstate 5, northwest of Glendale, Dad's Creek, west of Glendale, and the Farmer's Fire south of Glendale. Firefighters are contending with hazards, like falling boulders and trees, and old mine shafts, which are affecting access into some of the fire area. Values at risk include homes, commercial timberland, and critical wildlife habitat. There are no reports of homes burned. Two minor injuries have been reported. Two outbuildings have been destroyed.

Milo

Milo Branch is a group of smaller fires, all less than 20 acres in size. Firefighters are patrolling these fires today. No further control problems are expected on these fires.

Rabbit Mountain

Near Middle Creek, firefighters continue to make progress on line construction as well as setting up hoses and water for use in extinguishing heat along the fire line. Spread of the fire was slowed by the cooler temperatures and increased humidity yesterday.

Dad's Creek

The south end of the fire continues to burn actively near Grave Creek; however, growth has slowed with the increased humidity and cooler temperatures. Overnight, on Dad's Creek Fire, structure protection resources assigned in the Cow Creek Road area and Rattlesnake Road area made good progress helping Oregon Department of Forestry crews prepare the area for burn out operations that are expected to take place in the next 24-36 hours. The structure protection task forces assigned to that division reported good results with continued active fire behavior.

In Josephine County, overhead personnel spent a large part of the day accessing the area and reported challenging terrain, limited access, and active fire conditions. Approximately 30 homes are being threatened in the Grave Creek, Poorman Creek, and Lower Wolf Creek areas. Personnel will continue reconnaissance in these areas to get an accurate count of the number of structures threatened and formulate structure protection plans.

The fire is expected to burn actively again in the afternoon when temperature increases and winds start to affect fire movement. Smoke and erratic winds may impact air operations. Areas around Glendale will continue to see more smoke in the area.

Weather: A Red Flag warning has been issued for the area. The warning indicates an increased risk of fire potential. This warning is based on high fire activity in the area and the dry fuel conditions. The threat of dry lightning and thunderstorms continues through Wednesday, with a chance for rain as the storm progresses. A drying trend is forecast for the weekend.

Evacuations and Closures:

- Cow Creek Road from Riddle into the fire area and from Glendale into the fire has been closed. The public is asked to honor the road blocks and not interfere with firefighters working in the area.
- Evacuations have been ordered for McCullough Creek Road, Reuben Road, and Mt. Reuben Road in Douglas County, and Poorman Creek Road, Lower Grave Creek, Grave Creek, and Lower Wolf Creek in Josephine County.
- An additional three hundred sixty five residences are considered threatened. This means evacuations could be necessary at some point in the future. Any official evacuation orders would be issued by the Douglas County or Josephine County Sheriff's Offices.

Fire Information Meetings: A public meeting is planned in Wolf Creek for Thursday night, August 1, at 6:00 pm at the Community Center.

Public Safety/Prevention: Due to winds transitioning from the northwest and inversions setting in at night, thick smoke from the Dad's Creek fire is settling into Glendale during the morning hours. To address any concern as a result of smoke in the area, an air quality sensor has been installed in Glendale. Go to www.oregonsmoke.blogspot.com to track air quality measurements.

Douglas Forest Protective Association has increased prevention restrictions to IFPL 3, where a 1 p.m. shutdown is in effect. Public restrictions are also in place. Check www.dfpa.net before commencing your activities.

Fire Statistics:

Location: 7 miles north of Glendale, OR

Complex Size: 25,396 acres

Start Date: 7/26/13

Percent Contained: 5%

Cause: Lightning

Total Personnel: 1,387

Resources Include: 41 Type 2 hand crews, 86 engines, 15 dozers, 27 water tenders, and overhead personnel

Air Resources: 3 Type 1 helicopters, 6 Type 2 helicopters, and 2 Type 3 helicopters

Places to get information:

Douglas Forest Protective Association - www.dfpa.net

Twitter - www.twitter.com/DouglasFPA

Facebook - www.facebook.com/DouglasForestProtectiveAssociation

InciWeb - <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3559/>

ODF PIO Blog - <http://wildfireoregondeptofforestry.blogspot.com/>.

ODF Southwest Oregon District - www.swofire.com

American Red Cross - www.redcross.org/nss

Air Quality – www.oregonblogspot.com

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