

Douglas Complex Fire Update
Oregon Department of Forestry Team 2

As the structural threat lessens, two task forces have been demobilized (Lane and Linn counties). Two task forces from Benton and Lincoln counties remain on the fire.

Special Message: A satellite camp was established in Riddle. This will be a camp for firefighters only. All management functions will continue to operate in Glendale at the high school, including fire information.

Current Situation: The Douglas Complex currently consists of Rabbit Mountain, Dad's Creek, and Farmer's fires. Because of favorable weather conditions the last few days, firefighters have been able to make significant progress with fire line construction and firing operations. Firing operations remove unburned vegetation between the fire and the control line, to make the line more secure. Fire activity is expected to increase today with lower humidity and higher temperature.

Rabbit Mountain - 15,652 acres

A planned burn in the Darby Creek drainage will increase smoke in the area. A burnout was started overnight on the southeast corner and burnout operations will continue through the day shift. The containment line along the eastern side of the fire held yesterday with some mop up started. A combination of direct and indirect line construction has been completed from Middle Creek north and then south to Cow Creek. These lines will continue to be tested with the change in weather conditions today.

Dad's Creek - 18,548 acres

The south end of the fire continues to burn actively near Grave Creek. Successful firing operations were conducted overnight from the ridge south of Glendale to Grave Creek.

Approximately 30 homes remain threatened in the Grave Creek, Poorman Creek, and Lower Wolf Creek areas. There will be fewer structure engines working the fire, but protection will continue in the Grave Creek and Wolf Creek area today.

Farmer's Creek and Miscellaneous Small Fires - 259 acres

Firefighters will continue mopping up these fires. No further fire activity is expected. This will be the last report on Farmer's Creek and the other smaller fires within the Complex.

Weather: Today will be sunny and warmer with high temperatures ranging from 85 to 90 degrees. Widespread smoke will exist in valleys and along slopes. Afternoon winds on ridge tops are expected to gust 15 to 20 miles per hour in the late afternoon.

Evacuations and Closures:

* Cow Creek Road from Riddle into the fire area and from Glendale into the fire has been closed. The National Guard will be conducting traffic control the road blocks and not interfere with firefighters working in the area.

* Evacuations have been downgraded to a Level 2 (residents allowed back home, but restricted public access) for McCullough Creek Road, Reuben Road, and Mt. Reuben Road in Douglas County. A Level 3 (restricted access for everyone) is still in effect for Poorman Creek Road, Lower Grave Creek, Grave Creek, and Lower Wolf Creek in Josephine County.

* Residences in the area are still 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.

Public Safety/Prevention: Firefighters are contending with hazards, like falling boulders and trees, old mine shafts, and narrow roads 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. Three minor injuries have been reported. Two outbuildings have burned.

Douglas Forest Protective Association has increased prevention restrictions for both industry and the public. Check www.dfpa.net before commencing your activities.

Fire Statistics:

Location: 7 miles north of Glendale, OR

Percent Contained: 15%

Complex Size: 34,459 acres

Cause: Lightning

Start Date: 7/26/13

Total Personnel: 2,397

Resources Include: 66 Type 2 hand crews, 3 Type1 hand crews, 99 engines, 27 dozers, 33 water tenders, and overhead personnel, National Guard and State Fire Marshal Office resources

Air Resources: 8 Type 1 helicopters, 5 Type 2 helicopters, and 4 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.nwccg.gov/incident/3559/>

Douglas Complex Photos - To view: <http://tinyurl.com/DouglasFire2013>

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