

News Release

Umatilla National Forest

2517 SW Hailey Avenue
Pendleton, OR 97801

visit us at www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/

Oregon Department of Forestry

visit us at <http://oregon.gov/ODF/FIELD/NEO/aboutneo.shtml>

(541) 278-3722 (Joani Bosworth, Public Affairs, Umatilla National Forest)

(541) 427-3079 (Tom Lavagnino, Public Information Officer, ORCA IMT)

(541) 427-3079 (Kent Nelson, Public Information Officer, Maine IMT)

Thursday, August 16, 2007, 8:30 a.m.

Numerous Fires Ignited by Recent Lightning Storm Public Information Meeting Scheduled for Tonight in Ukiah

An isolated lightning event occurred Wednesday afternoon igniting over 2 dozen wildfires near the town of Ukiah Oregon. These fires are burning on Umatilla National Forest and Oregon Department of Forestry protected lands. A task group from Umatilla County has been brought in to provide structure protection. No structures have burned. This concentration of fires will be managed as the **Ukiah Complex** by the ORCA Incident Command Team, recently released from the Trout Meadows Fire and currently set up at fire camp in Ukiah.

Most fires range from 2-200 acres. The largest fire, reported at 3,000 acres is burning in grass, brush and scattered timber east of Ukiah along State Highway 244 near Bear Wallow and Lane Creek Campgrounds. A fire line has been constructed around this fire and firefighters will work today to strengthen the fire line. A section of State Highway 244 has been closed for public and firefighter safety. Please check with Oregon Department of Transportation for additional closure information.

A public information meeting has been scheduled for tonight at the North Fork John Day Ranger Station at 7.30 pm in Ukiah.

Yesterday's lightning storm was very efficient. Nearly every lightning strike resulted in a fire. The National Weather service has forecasted a red flag warning for additional dry lightning and possible winds for this afternoon and evening. Local Oregon Department of Forestry and Forest Service resources will be staged for initial attack to respond to new fires.

The Incident Management Team from the State of Maine took over management of the Trout Meadows Fire this morning. The Trout Meadows Fire burned 3,890 acres and is 95% contained.

For more information, please contact Fire Information at 541-427-3079 or the Umatilla National Forest at 541-278-3716.