

CANYON COMPLEX FIRE UPDATE



Incident Name: Canyon Complex Fire

Location: Plumas National Forest

California Incident Management Team # 3 (IC – Jeanne Pincha - Tulley)

Start Date & Report Time: June 22, 2008, PM

Acres: 1200 Acres

Summary: Fire fighters continue to battle multiple fires started by dry lightning on June 21. The highest priority for today is the Cold Fire, a 640 acre blaze that lies four miles south of Highway 70 and the communities of Greenhorn and Spring Garden. The Plumas Hot Shots (a highly trained hand crew), with engines and dozers, will continue to build fire line to prevent further spread of the fire north toward the Middle Fork of the Feather River and Highway 70. Expected wind gusts today cause concern for fire spotting beyond fire lines. Fire movement into Nelson Creek is also expected.

Several fires in the Feather River Canyon along Highway 70 create extreme hazard due to flaming debris rolling downhill. Crews will continue to scout fires, establish drop points and safety zones, and construct line where possible. Fires in the Bucks Lake Wilderness, although at high elevation, continue to burn with unusual intensity for this time of year.

Fire fighters are prepared to locate and attack new starts during the day. County Sheriff Departments are working with the Forest Service to coordinate any potential evacuations. No evacuations are currently in effect, although residents of Spring Garden and Greenhorn have been contacted.

Fire Behavior: Dead and green fuel moisture levels are near historic lows on the Plumas and all fuel types may burn rapidly with high intensity. A warming and drying trend is expected over the next few days with lightning storms possible toward the end of the week. Flaming debris rolling downhill toward the base of unburned canyons is a concern. Fire intensity is expected pick up in late morning as valley inversion layers lift.

Weather: Forecast for today is for temperatures in the upper 80's with humidity of 12-22% and winds SSW and upslope at 6 to 12mph. Smoke will settle into valleys with night time inversion.

Current Situation: Fires are being evaluated. Additional resources, including engines, crews and aircraft have been ordered. The Incident Command has been set up at the Feather River College in Quincy.

Current Forest and Road Closures: Visitors and residents should be aware that conditions may change quickly and roads and major highways may need to be closed for public safety.

Fire information: www.fs.fed.us/r5/plumas and www.inciweb.org. (530) 283-7882, -7883, or -7884

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