



## UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST/OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

# Ukiah Complex Fire Update

Saturday, August 18, 2007

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Incident Command Post located at the Sports Park in Ukiah, OR

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Yesterday fire crews were busy constructing fire line around six of the twenty-nine lightning-caused wildland fires from the recent lightning storm that struck all around Ukiah, Oregon. The remaining fires were in various stages of mop-up, and crews were actively extinguishing all burning materials to further prevent any escape fire. Many of the fires were discovered early and had relatively good ground access so that fire crews could take quick action on them before they became large fires. Today, windy conditions are predicted with rain in the forecast for tomorrow. Temperatures are expected to be 10 degrees cooler tomorrow.

The status of the major fires that the fire crews were taking action on is as follows:

**Owen Butte** – several fires have burned together and unburned fuels are present within the fire perimeter. Night crews conducted burn-out operations to secure the fire perimeter and consolidate multiple fires.

**Hidaway** – fire line has been built around the fire and structural protection resources will be released today.

**Sugarbowl** – fire is completely lined and mop-up is continuing. Smoke in the afternoon may be visible due to interior islands of unburned fuels.

**Camas** – fire is lined and very few smokes are present. State Hwy. 244 is the southern boundary of the fire.

**Incident 244** (2 miles north of Hidaway Springs) and **Incident 246** (north of Owen Butte) – Fires are lined and mop-up is very far along.

The Otter Fire, located near Round Meadows, grew to approximately 2,500 acres and the Umatilla National Forest decided to assign a separate incident management team to manage that fire. The Blue Mountain team will assume command of the Otter Fire today and base their operations from an incident command post based at Meadow Brook along State Highway 395.

The 3,890 acre Trout Meadows Fire is now 100 percent contained and crews were beginning to remove all unneeded equipment and releasing excess personnel.

The fires on the Ukiah Complex are 25 percent contained and total 8,515 acres. No damage to any structure or injury to the public or fire fighters has been reported. State Highway 244, east of Ukiah, and other Forest Service roads were closed yesterday and will remain that way until conditions become safe for public travel. Travelers should check with the Oregon Department of Transportation for an updated highway status before using State Highway 244. Tree falling crews will be dropping snags along the highway that have been burning and pose a threat to the road.

Eight hundred and eighty-two people are assigned to the Ukiah Complex. Thirty-three crews, two helicopters, twenty engines and ten dozers are working to establish lines around the fires.

Forest visitors are reminded that all fires are prohibited in the forest. Various trails, campground and backcountry roads are closed as the result of the fires and may remain closed when bow hunting season opens August 25.

These fires are burning on Umatilla National Forest and private lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry.

For more fire and road information, please visit the Umatilla National Forest web site at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma>, or the Oregon Department of Transportation at: <http://www.tripcheck.com>.