

# OTTER CREEK FIRE

Umatilla National Forest

## FIRE UPDATE

Rob Batten, Incident Commander  
Blue Mountain Fire Interagency Team  
IMT-II

August 23, 2007, 8:00 a.m.

Additional information available at [www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org)

Or call 541- 421-3073

### For Immediate Release

The Otter Creek Fire is now 45% contained due to the relentless work done by firefighting resources. The line on the west perimeter was completed yesterday and mop-up operations will start, along with some rehabilitation efforts. More hot spots are showing up outside the south perimeter as finer fuels dry out. Crews will continue to strengthen the established line and continue rehabilitation efforts on the SW flank to lessen any damage or impacts associated with line construction and fire suppression activities. This will be done following Forest guidelines and implementing MIST as needed.

Our number one priority is public and firefighter safety. Falling trees in the burned area pose the greatest limiting factor to public access. The road and area closure was revised but the immediate fire area remains closed. Another safety concern for the firefighters and the public is the increased traffic on Hwy 395 between Meadow Brook Summit and junction of Hwy 395 and Forest Road 55 (Texas Bar Road). Those traveling on these roads are advised to be extra cautious, particularly in the morning and evening hours when fire traffic is leaving the fire and returning to Incident Command Post at Meadow Brook.

A high pressure system will move over the area causing increase temperatures, wind and lower relative humidity. Winds will be terrain driven NW 7-11 mph with gusts 11-16 mph in the afternoon.

The Blue Mountain Interagency Incident Management Team will direct all assembled resources to meet the challenges posed by the Otter Creek Fire, provide for firefighter and public safety, protect fisheries and other natural resources, and minimize costs.

Location: 10 miles east of Ukiah, OR

Start Date: 08/15/07

Cause: Lightning

Approx. Size: 3,032 acres

Assigned Resources: 22-Type 2 crews, 1-Type 2, 1-Type 3 Helicopter, 16-Engines, 1-Dozers, 11-Water tenders, 2-Camp Crews, 118-Overhead

Containment: 45%

Total Personnel: 738

Agencies Represented: USFS, Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Oregon Dept. of Transportation, Grant County and Oregon Dept of Corrections

Public Use Restrictions remain in effect including the ban on firewood cutting. The Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) was lowered to IFPL 2 on the Umatilla National Forest.

For specific road and area closure information please visit the Umatilla National Forest web site at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/> or the inciweb web site at: <http://www.inciweb.org>.