

News Release



Oregon Department of Forestry

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Umatilla National Forest

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Lightning Wildfire Update

Pendleton, OR: Over 70 fires have been reported to the Pendleton Interagency Communication Center (*PICC) as a result of recent lightning activity. Fires are scattered on lands protected by Oregon Department of Forestry and the Umatilla National Forest.

Several fires were staffed overnight and additional ground and aerial resources are on order for today. Fires range in size from 1-28 acres. Two reconnaissance observation flights are scheduled for today to scout for new fires or search for fires that were reported but not located.

The Potamus fire, 16 miles SW of Ukiah, OR, has burned 28 acres near Potamus Point. A contract engine assigned to the fire received extensive fire damage when erratic winds from a thunderstorm caused the fire to jump the fireline. No firefighters were injured in the incident.

The Alder Fire, 17 miles SE of Heppner near Madison Butte Lookout has burned 4 acres in heavy dead and down timber. Six loads of retardant and helicopter water drops assisted in suppressing the fire. The fire is 100% lined and crews are mopping up.

Local weather forecasters have issued a "Red Flag Warning" predicting dangerous fire conditions with a chance of lightning through Saturday. Additional reports of new fires are expected throughout the week.

ODF/USFS

*PICC is an interagency communication-dispatching center, supporting lands in NE Oregon and SE Washington protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry, Umatilla National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Tribal Lands, Washington Department of Natural Resources, US Fish and Wildlife, and the National Park Service.