



Richfield Interagency Fire Center

1830 S. Industrial Park Road

Richfield, UT 84701

Phone: 435-896-8404 Fax: 435-896-4521

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 22, 2005 (4:00 pm)

Contact: Esther Benson

Phone: (435) 896-1032

Choke Cherry Fire Still Burning

Started September 9

Cause: Lightning

Location: 10 miles southeast of Beaver, 9 miles west of Circleville, and a mile to the east of Chokecherry Peak

Reported September 14

Acres: 210

Recent rains have dampened the Chokecherry Fire. The fire is expected to continue to grow as humidity drops with the passing of the storms. The fire is currently estimated to be 210 acres in size. In the afternoons between 2:00 and 6:00 pm is when the smoke has been visible. Smoke from the fire will continue to be visible for the next several weeks, depending on weather conditions and fire behavior.

The fire has moved down into the drainage of South Fork of South Creek. Hunters planning to access the upper areas of South Creek and north of Battle Mountain should avoid the fire area. Fire fighters are observing the fire on a daily basis. The fire is burning the organic matter under the trees and small groups of trees when the fire is able to move into the crowns.

This year the Fishlake National Forest has had eight Wildland Fire Use fires. These fires have burnt nearly 1,650 acres. Allowing these fires to burn is cost efficient, keeps firefighters available for priority fire suppression efforts elsewhere and helps lessen the risk of having a catastrophic wildfire. The Chokecherry fire will be beneficial to the area by: removing the dead and down trees, improving wildlife habitat, regenerating new vegetation, and providing for firefighter and public safety.

Land managers analyze many aspects before they determine to allow a natural started fire to continue to burn. Some of these are values in the area, hazards (physical conditions), probability (environmental conditions), and the over all risk. They also set boundaries for size, location, cost and safety measures. When these boundaries are getting close to being met they reanalyze the conditions and decided whether to suppress or change the boundaries.

For more information on the Chokecherry Wildland Fire Use fire, please call 435-896-1032, Monday through Friday 8:00-12:00 and 1:00-5:00.

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