



# BIFZ

## Burns Interagency Fire Zone



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Hines, Oregon 97738  
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### *Monday's Storm Leaves Firefighters Stretched Thin across New Wildfires*

**BURNS, Oregon** – Late afternoon thunderstorms left firefighters from the Burns Interagency Fire Zone (BIFZ) racing to locate and suppress dozens of new wildfires in Harney County yesterday. Nearly 30 fires were reported by early evening, ranging from less than one to 200 acres north of Burns, and from 10 to thousands of acres south of Burns.

The most active fire from yesterday's storm was incident #2493, discovered around 4:30 p.m. just 7 miles west of Fields, Oregon. The fire burned aggressively well into the night, moving east in Williams Canyon and threatening a primary ranch residence and the town of Fields. The Fields/Andrews Rural Fire District secured a double dozer line around the ranch and then assisted BIFZ and Lakeview resources in Fields with public contact and structure protection. Residents in the area were notified of the fire situation but were not evacuated. As of this morning, no structures have been lost or damaged and residents remain in town. Size and containment for this incident have not been estimated.

Of other significance, seven fires were reported around the north and southwest sides of Harney Lake. One of the seven, incident #2492, is burning just northwest of Weed Lake and is estimated near 5,000 acres. Today crews plan to complete burnout operations and continue securing the fire perimeter.

Other new fires in Harney County include five in the Otis Mountain/Moffet Table area; one near Donovan Mountain 15 miles northwest of Allison Guard Station; and seven unstaffed fires – three in the Steens Mountain Wilderness, one 4 miles southwest of South Steens Campground, one near Diamond Craters, one south of Frenchglen just east of Highway 205, and one 6 miles southwest of Drewsey.

Firefighting resources are at a critical shortage regionally and nationally. Burns Interagency Communications Center Manager Jonathan Manski said, "For us, that means we won't be receiving much outside help and will have to do the best we can with what we have. In some cases, that may mean leaving a fire unstaffed for a day or so. With additional lightning and wind storms projected for this afternoon, we could get stretched even thinner."

The High Desert Type 3 Incident Management Team has been assigned. Fire danger is rated **VERY HIGH** and the Industrial Fire Precaution Level is at a level 4. A regulated fire closure and public use restrictions for all public lands within the BIFZ are in effect.

For more information on current fire activity or public use restrictions, call (541) 573-4519. For 24-hour recorded information, call (541) 573-4555. **To report a wildfire, call (541) 573-1000.**

