



## **Erskine Fire Update June 26, 2016 8 P.M.**

**Fire Start:** June 23, 2016

**Location:** Lake Isabella

**Cause:** Under investigation

**Size:** 43,460 acres (increase in acreage due to better mapping)

**Percent Contained:** 40%

**Total Number of Personnel:** 2,079

**Costs to Date:** \$7.6 million

**Expected containment date:** June 30, 2016

**Unified Command:** BLM, Kern County Fire Department, Kern County Sheriffs, USFS

**Damaged Structures:** 75

**Destroyed Structures:** 200

**Erskine Fire Information Phone Line:** (760) 376-3781

### **TODAY'S FIRE SUMMARY**

Significant progress towards containment was made today, especially on the south and southwest edges of the fire. Two hotshot crews were flown in by helicopter to a remote area of the east flank. These crews will work out of a spike camp. A spike camp is a remote camp near the fireline with logistical support from base camp. The crews will stay out overnight and resume work in the morning. Their task is to construct handline that connects with containment lines on the south end of the fire.

The fire has reached Bright Star Canyon and could spread into pockets of heavy downed fuels which may result in occasional flareups and isolated torching until midnight. The fire in this area will continue to move in a westerly direction with slow spread rates. Once winds subside, the fire is expected to stall until mid-morning.

Structure protection in Squirrel Mountain Valley will continue.

Two fatalities have been confirmed. For additional information contact Kern County Sheriff's department.

### **Recommended Evacuations:**

Bella Vista, South fork, Yankee canyon, Weldon, Southlake, Squirrel valley, Lakeland estates Onnyx and Mountain Mesa.

### **Press Conference Scheduled:**

A press conference is scheduled for 10:00 A.M. tomorrow morning at the Kern County Emergency Operations Center in Bakersfield. Information regarding the repopulation of non-fire impacted areas will be provided.

### **Road Closures:**

Road closures in effect for Highway 178 at the following intersections; Kelso Creek, Sierra Way, Kelso Valley, Entrada and Lake Isabella and Kelso valley at Kelso Creek.