



Erskine Fire Update June 28, 2016 9:00 AM

Fire Information: 760-376-3781 8:00 AM-4:30 PM

<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4806/#>

Fire Start: June 23, 2016

Size: 46,679 acres

Percent Contained: 45%

Total Personnel: 1,808

Unified Command: USFS, BLM, Kern County Fire Department, Kern County Sheriff

Location: Lake Isabella

Cause: Under investigation

Costs to Date: \$13 million

Damaged Structures: 17

Destroyed Structures: 257

Today's Fire Summary:

Overall the fire was quiet last night. Smoke will be visible over the next several days as unburned pockets of grass and trees within the fire's perimeter continue to burn. The priority for crews today is to construct fireline along the uncontained perimeter of the fire's west flank.

The damage inspection teams have nearly completed their assessments. The number of residences destroyed or damaged has changed due to more thorough inspections.

Safety:

Hwy 178 is now open. There will be increased traffic on the highway from the public, residents, and fire vehicles. Motorists should drive defensively, exercise caution, and reduce their speed.

Homeowner Re-entry Plan and Remaining Closures

Residents of Squirrel Valley are allowed access to their community if they present ID to law enforcement at the roadblock. Evacuation orders were lifted for some residents: Yankee Canyon and Mountain Mesa residents were allowed to return to their communities. There is no power or potable water in these areas (bottled water is being provided). Areas east of South Lake along Hwy 178—Larson Tract, Navajo, Hillview Acres, Bella Vista, and Weldon—are also open (these areas have electrical power but no potable water, and bottled water is being provided).

The community of South Lake remains closed.

Kern County's Office of Emergency Services has opened a transition center to support the needs of the recently evacuated residents who are now returning to their homes. The location of the transition center is Woodrow W. Wallace Middle School at 3240 Erskine Creek Rd. in Lake Isabella. Normal hours of operation will be from 9 AM to 6 PM.

Call the Kern County Emergency Operations Center at 661-873-2660 for more information on homeowner re-entry. The center hours are 8 AM-8 PM daily.

Shelters: Shelters are open for residents affected by the fire and will remain open until further notice. Locations: St. Jude's Catholic Church in Wofford Heights and Kernville Elementary School, Kernville. The Red Cross Safe & Well site is <https://safeandwell.communityos.org/cms/index.php>.

Road Closures: Roads off of Hwy 178 remain closed: Entrada, McCray Rd, Dogwood, Kelso Valley Rd and Kelso Creek Rd.

Drone Intrusion: An UAS (Unmanned Aerial Systems), commonly referred to a "drone", intrusion occurred over the Erskine Fire requiring air operations to be grounded for a period of time. All UAS, of any size or weight, are considered aircraft by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and are subject to FAA regulations. UAS may not be flown within a Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) under any circumstances without prior approval by FAA and the agency that requested the TFR.