



Erskine Fire Update June 29, 2016 9:00 PM

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

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

Fire Start: June 23, 2016

Size: 46,684 acres

Percent Contained: 70

Total Personnel: 1,326

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

Location: Lake Isabella

Cause: Under investigation

Costs to Date: \$17.5 million

The damage assessment team has completed their report and these will be the final numbers: 12 damaged single residences, 285 destroyed single residences, and 1 destroyed commercial property. The commercial property destroyed was an AT&T microwave cell hub.

Today's Fire Summary: Fire behavior was minimal today due to rain received yesterday over the fire. Thunderstorms today stayed north of the fire zone, and no further storms are predicted this week. Crew have made great progress on connecting the fireline on the west, from the Pack Trail on the north and Landers Meadow on the south. A completed line is anticipated by end of shift tomorrow on the remaining sections of the fire. Crews continue to work on fire-suppression repair work.

Smoke may be visible over the next several days. When reporting smoke, it's important to note if the smoke is a new start or from unburned areas within the fire's interior. Response to the report will be dispatched as appropriate.

Safety: Hwy 178 is now open. This brings increased traffic on the highway from the public and residents. Motorists should drive defensively, exercise caution, and reduce their speed.

U.S. Forest Service Campgrounds Re-Open: Sequoia National Forest announced today that campgrounds along Hwy 178 are now open. Those campgrounds are Old Isabella, Auxiliary, Paradise Cove, and South Fork. The public should not depend on water at Old Isabella, Paradise Cove, and South Fork. Auxiliary is the only one with water.

Homeowner Re-entry: There are no evacuations in place. Residents can return to their homes with ID for proof of residency. Southern California Edison anticipates that power will be restored to all residents by tomorrow. Kern County's Office of Emergency Services' transition center is open to support the needs of recently evacuated residents who are returning to their homes. The center is located at 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. Hot lunch is being served from 11 AM to 5 PM through Sunday. **Call Kern County Emergency Operations Center at 661-873-2660 for more information. 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 and Well site is <https://safeandwell.communityos.org/cms/index.php>.

Road Closures: Hwy 178 is open. Soft road closures continue off of Hwy 178 at McCray Rd and Dogwood, at Entrada and Hwy 178, and Kelso Valley and Kelso Creek Rd. Entry on these roads require ID for proof of residency.

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.

Remember: if you fly, we can't.