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News Release

June 18, 2016

Pony Fire information: 530-643-7669

Email: KNFPonyfire@gmail.com



Pony Fire Update: Saturday, June 18, 2016

A fire camp tour, open to the public, will be held today, 1:00pm at River Park in Happy Camp. Come see what goes on behind the scenes. Please RSVP to (530) 643-7669 if you plan on attending.

Happy Camp, CA -- The Pony Fire is burning on the Klamath National Forest, about 15 miles southwest of Happy Camp and west of Highway 96. The fire is now 2,826 acres and 40 percent contained.

Significant rain has fallen on the fire over the past two days, temporarily halting fire spread and reducing fire activity to smoldering. Firefighters again took advantage of the cooler weather to work on direct containment lines on the east and south perimeters in order to prevent the fire from moving toward homes along Highway 96.

Crews will continue building lines today, working from Swillup Creek south to Elliott Creek and westward from Elliott Creek. They will also monitor and hold the fire in the Swillup Creek drainage, where the creek continues to hold as a direct containment line.

On the northern flank, crews will patrol and improve the direct line, from the ridge line of Pony Peak to Swillup Creek, which is blocking fire growth northward and protecting the Crawford Vegetation Management Project, a 1,600-acre forest health and fuels reduction project.

Firefighters finished preparation of a landing spot for helicopters west of Cottage Grove on Friday. Flying some crews to and from the fire perimeter each day will enable more onsite work time for improving containment lines.

Today will be the last day of favorable weather before a return to hotter and dryer conditions. Clouds this morning are expected to give way to sunshine by afternoon, with rising temperatures over the next three days.

As the weather warms, fire managers will re-evaluate the slop-over into the Dillon Creek drainage on the west flank at Pony Peak. The fire has not moved significantly in this area in the past few days. Extremely steep terrain and the threat of falling snags make the area dangerous for firefighters.

For public and firefighter safety, a temporary closure order has been issued for lands within and adjacent to the Pony fire. The closed area includes National Forest land west of Highway 96, north of the Ukonom Ranger District boundary, east of Siskiyou Wilderness, and south of a line defined along Crawford Creek, Forest Road 15N19, and Bear Creek/Kelsey Trail. Dillon Creek Campground remains open.

More information and maps of closures available on Inciweb
<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4769/>



Sprinkler protection systems in place along Highway 96.

Photo taken on June 18, 2016