

Rush Fire Update

Wednesday, August 22, 2012 8 p.m.
Northern Rockies Incident Management Team – Doug Turman, IC

Fire Information Office:
530-710-8568
Staffed: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Started: August 12, 2012 at 6:42 pm
Cause: Lightning
Fuels: Fire is burning in sagebrush, juniper, and grass
Estimated Size: 317,616 acres
Containment: 60%
Expected Containment: 8/28/2012
Committed Resources: Approximately 832 people
Structures Threatened: 39 (20 residences; 1 commercial; 18 outbuildings)
Structures Damaged or Destroyed: 1 (barn)
Injuries: 2 (both in fire camp)

Location: The fire started about 15 miles southeast of Ravendale, Calif., and is now measured to be about 42 miles long and 16 miles wide and is completely east of Highway 395. The fire began on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management's Eagle Lake Field Office.

Summary: The northeast part of the Rush fire was where the action was on Wednesday, about 20 miles east of Ravendale, Calif., in the Buffalo Hills. The remainder of the fire saw primarily creeping and smoldering in the interior.

Crews, engines, bulldozers, and aircraft worked together to build fire line along the extreme north end of the fire. However, ahead of line building, winds pushed the fire in a narrow finger north toward Garden Lake. Firefighters saw flames from 10 to 20 feet high as the fire pushed two miles to the lake.

Use of helicopters and air tankers had to be suspended around 3:30 p.m. because of smoke in Susanville from the Chips fire to the west.

Crews will work tonight, continuing mop-up and line building on the remaining hot part of the Rush fire's edge. Conditions remain very dry and even though most of the fire perimeter is contained, the dry vegetation coupled with high winds still pose a great risk for fire spread in the northeast corner of the fire.

Area and Road Closures in Effect: Public lands bounded by Highway 395 on the west, the Sand Pass road and Nevada 447 on the east, the Wendel Road on the south, and Juniper Ridge road to Buckhorn road on the north are closed. The Buffalo Meadows road in Washoe Co., Nev., is also closed.

Remarks: NOTE: Use of chainsaws on public lands managed by BLM in NE California and far northwest Nevada is suspended because of extreme fire danger. Fire officials remind residents and visitors that fire restrictions are in effect for public lands and national forests in northeast California and far northwest Nevada. Campfires are permitted only in posted recreation sites.



For additional fire information, please go to InciWeb @ <http://inciweb.org/incident/3151/>
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