

Rush Fire Update

Friday, August 24, 2012, 8 p.m.

Northern Rockies Incident Management Team – Doug Turman, IC

Fire Information Office:
530-710-8568
Staffed: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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.

Note: News releases from the Rush fire will now be issued once daily, at 8 a.m.

Started: August 12, 2012 at 6:42 pm

Cause: Lightning

Fuels: Fire is burning in sagebrush, juniper, and grass

Estimated Size: 320,793 acres (275,650 acres in California and 45,143 acres in Nevada)

Containment: 65%

Expected Containment: 8/28/2012

Committed Resources: 827 people

Structures Threatened: 39 (20 residences; 1 commercial; 18 outbuildings)

Structures Damaged or Destroyed: 1 (barn)

Injuries: 2

Summary: The Rush fire was quiet on Friday, mainly smoldering with short bursts of active flames when thicker pockets of vegetation ignited in the northeast flank of the fire. The area is in Nevada, 25 miles northeast of Ravendale, Calif.

Crews in the northeast completed burnouts to secure the fireline from Garden Lake to Burnt Lake. About 100 firefighters in five crews were flown to several areas in the northeast, including Antelope Springs, to build fireline. These crews will camp out as they go, remaining out several days.

Meantime, a "spike" camp for about 300 firefighters was set up at Burnt Lake to allow firefighters quicker access to the most active part of the Rush fire.

On most of the southeast flank of the fire, suppression repair work was completed. On the west side of the fire, just east of U.S. 395, firefighters patrolled. Crews mopped up and patrolled on the north side of the fire.

The weather forecast calls for increasing winds and a possible fire-weather watch by Sunday. With vegetation still extremely dry, firefighters are working hard to quell remaining smokes to prevent flare ups with the coming windy weather.

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. The Ramhorn Springs and Dodge Reservoir campgrounds remain 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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