



# Chips Fire Update

## August 22 -- 8:00 A.M.



**Location:** Plumas and Lassen National Forests

**Date started:** July 29, 2012

**Cause:** Under investigation

**Size:** 62,820 acres

**Containment:** 37%

**Personnel:** 1,174 (Crews: 14 Type 1, 5 Type 2; Helicopters: 5 Type 1, 2 Type 2, 2 Type 3; Engines: 106; Dozers: 18, Water Tenders: 25)

**Management:** California Interagency Incident Management Team 4

**Fire Status:** High winds pushed the fire into containment lines along Highway 89 yesterday as crews secured and mopped-up small spot fires that escaped the perimeter. This operation continued through the night with firefighters patrolling the area and containing every spot that was identified.

Today, crews will continue to patrol the communities of Big Meadows, Prattville and Canyon Dam while also mopping-up the edge of the fire from Butt Lake Road through the Canyon Dam area. Firefighters will also be in Seneca mopping up control lines around the community.

Crews along the southern edge of the fire will prepare for a burnout operation in the Caribou and Red Hill areas that will be executed tonight. This burnout operation will take advantage of the lower temperatures and increased moisture in the air to complete a low intensity burn in an area where firefighters have had difficulty securing the control line. This will also protect a critical communication site from uncontrolled fire in the area.

Winds will decrease significantly today and temperatures will moderate to normal seasonal levels allowing firefighters to continue building fire line directly along the fire's edge on the western flank. Two Wildland Fire Modules, which are specialized crews of ten people per module who are trained to work self-sufficiently in the back country for extended periods, will be working in the Chips Creek drainage from south to north. This crew will utilize infra-red mapping to pin-point and extinguish hot spots while constructing fire lines.

**Evacuations and Closures:** Per the Plumas County Sheriff's Department, Mandatory Evacuations are in place for the communities of Prattville, Canyon Dam and the Big Meadows area. A Voluntary Evacuation is in place for Almanor. An Advisory is in effect to all West Almanor and East Shore residents (Hwy. 147) advising of the potential threat of the fire to the areas. The evacuation center located at the Chester Memorial Hall on Gay Street has been closed because no residents needed assistance. It will be reopened as needed.

Highway 89 from Butt Lake Road to 4.3 miles north of Greenville is closed to all traffic due to heavy smoke and a large amount of emergency equipment on the roadway. For more information, please go to: <http://www.countyofplumas.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=537>

**Community Meetings:** A community meeting will be held tonight evening at 7:00 p.m. at the Lake Almanor West Community Park, 177 Lake Almanor West Drive, Lake Almanor West, CA 96020. There will also be a community meeting tomorrow, August 23, at 6:00 p.m. at the Hamilton Branch Fire Department, 3791 Big Springs Road, Westwood, CA 96137.

**Additional Fire Information:** <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3052/> or call (530) 283-3593 and (530) 283-3288 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.

