



# Chips Fire Update

## August 26 -- 8:00 P.M.



**Location:** Plumas and Lassen National Forests

**Date started:** July 29, 2012

**Cause:** Under investigation

**Size:** 68,582 acres

**Containment:** 65%

**Personnel:** 1,502 (Crews: 19 Type 1, 11 Type 2; Helicopters: 4 Type 1, 3 Type 2, 2 Type 3; Engines: 140; Dozers: 15; Water Tenders: 42)

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

**Fire Status:** Containment lines held on the fire today despite winds gusting up to 35 miles per hour over the fire area. Firefighters were able to quickly identify and contain several small spot fires by the end of the day shift. Mop-up of those spots and the strengthening of containment lines will continue through the night.

The air tankers that shored up control lines yesterday with over 200,000 gallons of fire retardant were grounded this afternoon due to the winds. However, with the addition of numerous engines and crews newly assigned to the incident, firefighters were able to complete containment lines around several spot fires including the 130 acre spot in Yellow Creek, which abuts private timber land. Additional spots were identified outside containment lines near Rattlesnake Peak and the Butt Lake Road. All the spots were two acres or less and contained and cooled immediately.

Helicopters were utilized this morning, particularly on the western flank of the fire around Chips Lake to drop water on an area of the fire that continues to hold heat and creep to the west. Hot shot crews and bulldozers have worked together to construct containment lines around this section of the fire in incredibly steep and rugged country. Infra-red flight data continues to provide invaluable information to identify hot spots and help direct resources to them.

Some of the additional resources now assigned to the fire will be working the night shift where crews continue to mop-up in the fire area and grid outside of containment lines. "We had good progress today," said Ira Peskin, Operations Trainee, while briefing firefighters heading to the night shift. "But we're at 4<sup>th</sup> and goal now, and we just need to hold."

**Smoke:** Smoke will continue to be present in the fire area and surrounding communities. With several large fires in the area contributing to lower air quality, residents can experience eye irritation, respiratory issues and aggravated heart and lung health problems. These can impact children and older adults more severely. Residents are encouraged to get more information on air quality in their area by visiting: [http://airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=airnow.local\\_state&stateid=5&tab=0](http://airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=airnow.local_state&stateid=5&tab=0)

**Community Meeting:** A community meeting will be held tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. at the Hamilton Branch Fire Station, 6791 Big Springs Road, Westwood, California.

**Evacuations and Closures:** No changes have occurred to evacuations at this time. The Plumas County Sheriff's Department continues to enforce Mandatory Evacuations for the communities of Canyon Dam and the Big Meadows area. A Voluntary Evacuation is in place for Rush Creek, and an Advisory is in effect for Prattville residents for the potential threat of the fire to the area.

**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 8 p.m.

