



Chips Fire Update

August 29 -- 8:00 P.M.



Location: Plumas and Lassen National Forests

Date started: July 29, 2012

Cause: Under investigation

Size: 74,125 acres

Containment: 91%

Personnel: 1,398 (Crews: 6 Type 1, 17 Type 2; Helicopters: 2 Type 1, 3 Type 2, 1 Type 3; Engines: 119; Dozers: 14; Water Tenders: 42)

Management: California Interagency Incident Management Team 4

Fire Status: The fire is downsizing personnel and equipment as containment objectives are met. With mop-up targets being achieved, new goals include keeping fire within containment lines and securing lines by eliminating heat sources that pose a threat.

Mop-up operations will continue until fire lines are secured, typically up to 300 feet into the fire interior. Mop-up involves "cold trailing" which is a critical piece of containing the fire's edge. It involves firefighters walking or crawling along fire lines and using the back of their hands to feel the ground for heat. It is a tedious process of feeling stumps, roots and rocks for heat, and then turning over dirt onto hot spots and, where possible, getting water into the area to cool it off. These efforts begin at the fire's edge with firefighters working an arm's length from each other and moving in step along fire lines. It is an organized and disciplined process called "gridding" and it's being done along the fire perimeter in and outside of containment lines every day and night. Because of the behavior of this fire, which has spread by spot fires, gridding is an important part of controlling and containing the fire and securing buffers around the fire's edge.

The burnout operation to protect Seneca will be completed tonight. Crews will utilize a fire line constructed around the forest community for the firing operation that will reduce fuels and offer more security to homes and historical structures within the active fire area.

Smoke was evident in the fire area today as pockets of green on the interior of the burn continue to catch fire. Firefighters remain vigilant in monitoring the intensity of these fires and utilize air resources when necessary to keep them at manageable levels.

Evacuations and Closures: The Plumas County Sheriff's Department has issued an update to area evacuations effective at 10:00 a.m. this morning. The Advisement for Prattville has been lifted. The Mandatory Evacuation Order for Rocky Point Campground, Big Meadows, Almanor Boat Ramp, Almanor Day Use Area, Camp Connery and Canyon Dam has been lifted to Advisory. The Voluntary Evacuation Notification for Rush Creek has also been lifted. Seneca remains under Mandatory

evacuation.

The Plumas and Lassen National Forests continue to maintain area Closures within and surrounding the Chips fire area. This includes the following area of the Pacific Crest Trail: The PCT is officially closed from Three Lakes (in the Bucks Lake Wilderness) on the Plumas National Forest northbound to the Cold Spring trailhead at the Humbug Road (Plumas County Road 307) on the Lassen National Forest. Additionally, using the Caribou Road (Forest Route 27N26) is prohibited, as the area is also officially closed.

Hikers and equestrians are advised to avoid travel on the portion of the PCT from Bucks Summit, north to Hwy 36. In order to re-route themselves most expeditiously, at Bucks Summit, northbound trail users may travel on Plumas County Road 414 east to Quincy, pick up Highway 70/89 to Chester and then Highway 36 west to resume the trail. Southbound travelers may reverse the process.

Hikers may also use Plumas County Transit between Quincy and Chester, available weekdays only. The transit schedule can be found at [http://www.plumastransit.com/qcy to chester 23.html](http://www.plumastransit.com/qcy%20to%20chester%2023.html)

Community Meeting: A community meeting will be held Friday, August 31 at 6:00 p.m. at the Chester Memorial Hall, 225 Gay Street, Chester, California.

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.

