



Pioneer Fire Update

Sunday, July 31, 2016

Fire Information: 208-392-9634 **Hours:** 7a.m. – 8 p.m.

Acres: 27,417

Containment: 27 percent

Location: 8 miles north of Idaho City, Idaho

Date of detection: 18 July 2016

Personnel: 1188

Fire hazards: Steep terrain, dry fuels, poor access

Structures threatened: 10

Damaged or destroyed structures: 2

Evacuations: 35 people

Cost: \$11,378,291

HOT SHOT CREWS	T 2 CREWS	CAMP CREWS	TYPE 1 HELICOPTERS (HEAVY)	TYPE 2 HELICOPTERS (MEDIUM)	TYPE 3 HELICOPTERS (LIGHTS)	ENGINES	DOZERS	WATER TENDERS	MASTICATORS
7	22	5	4	3	3	48	7	13	5

DRONE INCURSIONS--Aviation operations once again stopped for 45 minutes during a critical period of fire suppression due to an unmanned aircraft incursion. IF YOU FLY WE CAN'T. PLEASE DO NOT FLY DRONES IN OR NEAR THE FIRE AREA.

COMMUNITY MEETING--Fire managers will provide updates and answer questions at a community meeting tonight at the Boise Basin Senior Citizens Center in Idaho City. Time of the meeting is 7-8 p.m.

YESTERDAY – As the inversion lifted, fire activity increased and stayed very active throughout the day. Significant growth occurred on several parts of the perimeter spurred on by strong west/southwest winds and low relative humidities. The fire jumped highway 21 near Whoop Um Up/ Lamar Creek and burned east-southeast forcing crews to abandon their lines and drop back to an existing contingency line prepared from Highway 21 to Sunset Mountain. The fire also pushed east toward Willow and Banner Creeks. Additionally, as the cold front passed, the northern flank near the upper Rock Creek drainage, as well as the area near Banner Creek, edged north making direct attack difficult and forcing fire fighters to drop back to planned secondary control lines.

Heavy equipment and crews continued preparing control lines down Burns Ridge and searching for opportunity to cross Rock Creek in order to prevent the fire from moving into the Hole in the Wall area and toward Lowman. Crews successfully completed line north from Pilot Peak to the head of Elk Creek and around the entire west half of the fire to Grimes Creek near Coulter Summit.

Night crews will be conducting burn operations where possible in an attempt secure the section of line north of Highway 21 at Mores Creek Summit.

Aviation resources flew throughout the day—with the exception of the 45-minute delay caused by a drone incursion—delivering water and retardant to slow the fire growth.

Fire managers praised the leadership of fireline personnel for taking initiative to adjust tactics as fire activity became erratic. Supervisors are emphasizing Life First concepts of Stop, Think, Talk, Then Act for all firefighters.

TODAY – Firefighters will evaluate possible courses of action and will continue using heavy equipment where possible and capitalizing on any roads and natural barriers such as old burn scars. They will construct lines and burn out fuels where feasible.

Hot and dry conditions will prevail again today. Smoke will likely again be visible from great distances.

Fire personnel face additional hazards on the fireline, including old mining sites.

The area closure order for the fire can be viewed online at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/boise/alerts-notice> and at inciweb.nwcg.gov. Information is also available at <https://www.facebook.com/Pioneer-Fire-682201165260518/> or at pioneerfire2016@gmail.com.