



Erskine Fire Update June 27, 2016 10:00 A.M.

Erskine Fire Information Phone Line: (760) 376-3781

Fire Start: June 23, 2016

Location: Lake Isabella

Cause: Under investigation

Size: 45,388 acres

Percent Contained: 40%

Total Number of Personnel: 2,079

Costs to Date: \$7.6 million

Expected Containment: June 30, 2016

Unified Command: BLM, Kern County Fire Department, Kern County Sheriffs, USFS

Damaged Structures: 75

Destroyed Structures: 200

TODAY'S FIRE SUMMARY

Last night was generally uneventful with very little fire activity. A glow from the fire was very visible on the north side, as the fire hit pockets of unburned fuel, however, the fire remains within the fire perimeter.

The words for today are "Hot and dry again". Above normal temperatures, poor overnight RH recovery and gusty winds on ridges and in canyons continue to challenge suppression forces. Today's priority is on the south-south east areas of the fire. Weather predictions are for expected afternoon heating and wind. This area is also challenging for firefighters because of the steep and lack of access. Crews are prepared for the increased fire activity and the potential for the fire to make short runs.

Air support and retardant drops have been very effective in slowing down the fire's spread; "buying time" for the firefighters on the ground to construct containment lines. A combination of direct and indirect suppression tactics are being used.

Yesterday a UAS (Unmanned Aerial Systems), commonly referred to as "drones", intrusion occurred over the Erskine Fire requiring air operations to be grounded for a period of time. All UAS, of any size or weight, are considered aircraft by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and are subject to FAA regulations. UAS may not be flown within a Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) in place under any circumstances without prior by FAA and the agency that requested the TFR

Two fatalities have been confirmed. For additional information contact Kern County Sheriff's department.

Press Conference Scheduled:

A press conference is scheduled for 10:00 A.M. this morning at the Kern County Emergency Operations Center in Bakersfield. Information regarding the repopulation of non-fire impacted areas will be provided.

Road Closures:

Road closures in effect for Highway 178 at the following intersections; Kelso Creek, Sierra Way, Kelso Valley, Entrada and Lake Isabella and Kelso valley at Kelso Creek.