



U.S. Forest Service
Klamath National Forest
1711 South Main Street
Yreka CA 96097

News Release

Fire Information: 530-493-1510

Web: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4078>

Facebook: <http://on.fb.me/1snfZfQ>



Happy Camp Complex Morning Update August 24, 2014

Date Started: August 11, 2014

Size: 20,253 acres total

Containment: 20 percent

Estimated Containment Date: 9/8/14

Estimated Cost to Date: \$13.8M

Total Personnel: 1,823

Committed Resources: 60 crews, 8 helicopters, 104 engines, 16 dozers, 23 water tenders

Community Meeting: There will be a community meeting this evening at 6:00 at the Seiad Valley Fire Department (44601 Highway 96).

Current Events: A type 1 team—California Interagency Incident Management Team 3—is joining management of the Happy Camp Complex today. The team will take command of the Faulkstein Fire and have a command post in Seiad Valley. The type 2 team currently on the complex—Southern California Incident Management Team 3—will continue to manage the Frying Pan Fire from the command post in Happy Camp.

The **Frying Pan Fire** grew 1,657 acres yesterday and is now 18,179 acres. The fire did not cross Grider Ridge yesterday, in part due to multiple retardant drops that were possible because of clearer skies. Low-intensity fire backed down toward Elk Creek on the southwest side of the fire, and in some places it is within 1/8 mile from the creek. Fire personnel expect the fire in that area to reach some of the control lines today. Crews began strategic burning operations on the south side of the fire yesterday, which is expected to help halt the southward progression of the fire. That fire moved slowly downhill last night removing unburned fuels in this area. Firefighters built hand line last night on the northeast side of the fire. Crews will mop up and patrol the fireline today on the northwest arm of the fire and pack up and transport excess equipment and supplies. Crews elsewhere will continue constructing and improving fireline, conducting strategic firing operations, and removing vegetation around structures. Air resources had a productive day yesterday dropping water and retardant. Weather permitting today, they expect to have another good day for aerial suppression and monitoring.

The **Faulkstein Fire** grew 113 acres yesterday and is now 1,739 acres. Helicopter water drops helped keep spot fires on the southeastern side of the fire in check as fire crews worked to access the fire from a

trail system to the east. Structure protection crews will continue to removing brush around homes today along the Scott River Road.

Weather and Fire Behavior: Conditions will likely be smoky well into the afternoon until the strong inversion finally breaks and increases fire activity. Temperatures will range from the mid-80s to mid-90s and the humidity will be in the mid-teens. Morning winds will again be from the east and northeast, shifting to the west in the afternoon, and back to the east in the evening. They will remain light throughout the day, which will allow for good flying conditions once the inversion breaks. The easterly winds should help limit the spread of the Frying Pan Fire up Grider Ridge but will allow for continued downslope movement southwest into Copper Creek and Elk Creek over the next few days. The Faulkstein Fire is expected to spread upslope toward Huckleberry Mountain and into Stones and Clift valleys. Burning material rolling downhill remains a significant factor in fire growth and is a safety concern.

Safety: Firefighters and their vehicles are present along Highway 96 and the Scott River Road. Motorists should slow down and limit distractions to help keep everyone safe when driving through the fire areas.

Air quality along the Klamath River drainage is affected by smoke from the Frying Pan and Faulkstein Fires. For more information about air quality in the area, please visit <http://californiasmokeinfo.blogspot.com/>

A Clean Air Respite Center is available at the Karuk Tribe Senior Nutrition Center in Happy Camp (64101 Second Avenue). The center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and will remain open longer if needed due to smoky conditions.

An **Evacuation Advisory**, issued August 13, 2014, continues for residents of Happy Camp along China Grade Road from Elk Creek Bridge to Frying Pan Creek. China Grade Road is open to residents only.

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