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News Release

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Pony Fire MORNING Update: June 12, 2016

**A Public Information Meeting will be held at the
Happy Camp Grange at 6pm on Monday, June 13, 2016**

Happy Camp, CA -- The Pony Fire is burning on the Klamath National Forest, about 15 miles southwest of Happy Camp and west of Highway 96. The fire is now about 1,655 acres and 20 percent contained.

On Saturday, warmer and windier weather increased fire activity, with fire crossing containment lines above the Dillon Creek drainage on the southwest side of the fire. Aircraft dropped water and retardant into the evening to help slow the fire's downhill growth into the drainage.

The fire burned actively overnight on the southwestern flank, staffed for the first time by a night shift. Almost 900 firefighters are now working on the fire.

Warmer weather conditions are predicted for Sunday. Crews will continue efforts to contain the active southwestern flank by improving an existing dozer line which runs west toward the Dillon Creek drainage. Further south, they will scout for additional containment opportunities.

The fire is burning within the perimeter of the 2001 Swillup Fire. Dead fuels from that fire are driving much of the fire activity on the Pony Fire. Numerous snags and downed logs, as well as extremely steep terrain, make firefighting hazardous.

On the north and east sides of the fire, crews will continue to improve hand and dozer lines in preparation for strategic burning. They will also continue to lay hose and remove hazard trees from Pony Peak Ridge Road and look for opportunities to protect the Crawford Vegetation Management Project, a 1,600-acre forest health and fuels reduction project.

Along Highway 96, firefighters will continue to work with landowners on contingency structure protection.

To ensure the safety of the public and firefighters, a Forest Closure Order is in effect for the Pony Fire area. The closure includes Pony Peak Road (14N39), Pony Peak Ridge Road (15N30), Dry Lake Road (15N28) and Bear Peak Road (15N19) from its intersection with Douglas Creek Road (15N24) continuing west to its end.

A public meeting is scheduled for Monday at 6 p.m. at the Happy Camp Grange. Fire officials will be on hand to provide an update and answer questions.

More information and maps of closed roads are available at the Klamath National Forest website (www.fs.usda.gov/klamath/).

Information, maps, and closures are also posted on Inciweb at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4769/>.



Caption: Aerial photo of fire vehicles along an unnamed ridge top on the Pony Fire. Photo taken 4:30pm on June 12, 2016