



Forest Service

Mendocino National Forest
825 N. Humboldt Ave.
Willows, CA 95988
(530) 934-3316
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/m>

News Release

Public Information

530-487-4602

2020.augustcomplex@firenet.gov

<https://www.facebook.com/MendocinoNF>



Fire Update: August Complex (South Zone)

Incident Start Date	08/17/20
August Complex Total Size	796,651 acres
Containment	30%
August Complex South Zone Size	531,471 acres
Cause	Lightning
Structures Lost	35
Structures Threatened	400

WILLOWS, CA. – Sept. 16, 2020 – The South Zone of the August Complex continues to grow in size as fire crews make good progress in some locations, while conditions in other areas are proving difficult. The sheer size of the fire creates varying fire activity across the vast terrain and fuel conditions.

Firefighters were successful in implementing additional control line and containment measures along the eastern portion of the fire on Tuesday. Crews completed burning operations near Salt Creek that will provide a secure containment line once mop-up of the area is complete.

The fire continues to progress south toward Lake Pillsbury where extreme dry conditions and heavy fuels (vegetation) are allowing for substantial fire growth despite having favorable winds from the southwest. In this area, fire crews are constructing dozer and hand lines, and tying into previously constructed lines from the 2018 Ranch fire. Firefighters are also installing hose lays and implementing measures for structure protection.

In the southwest area of the fire within the Yuki and Sanhedrin Wilderness Areas, fire behavior remains active, and growth has progressed west of Impassible Rock. Air tankers are being utilized to provide protection of important communications facilities with retardant drops.

Weather: Dry conditions are forecast to continue on Wednesday, with increasing humidity expected over the next few days. Temperatures will remain in the upper 70s to the mid-80s. Southwesterly winds will continue, with clearer skies to the south.

Evacuations: Evacuation orders are in effect for Mendocino, Lake, Humboldt and Trinity Counties. Please see each of the respective county sheriff’s office or emergency management websites for specific evacuation information. Evacuation information can also be found at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/article/6983/55716/> .

Public Meetings: The August Complex-South Zone will hold a Virtual Public Meeting at 7pm on Thursday, September 17, 2020 to provide a fire overview and to allow the public to ask questions. The meeting will be live streamed on the Mendocino National Forest Facebook page. A West Zone virtual public meeting is planned for tonight, September 16. Please see their webpage for details <https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2020/8/16/august-complex-includes-doe-fire/>

For more information on the August Complex can be found on please check InciWeb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6983/>