



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

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News Release

Public Information

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Fire Update: August Complex (South Zone)

Date Started: August 17, 2020 Acres Burned: 870,200 (All Zones) Containment: 43%
Cause: Lightning Structures Threatened: 1,595 Structures Destroyed: 35
Expected Containment: November 15, 2020

WILLOWS, Calif. – Sept. 26, 2020 – Crews have been busy preparing for an expected change in weather that will affect the August Complex beginning Saturday. Total acreage for the August Complex is now at 870,200 acres with 43% containment.

Work has been ongoing for several days to improve control lines, install and test hose lays, and to ensure that structure protection measures are in place in the Lake Pillsbury area. The east side of the South Zone is fully contained, and is being patrolled with aircraft to identify any threats to control lines.

The National Weather Service has issued a Red Flag Warning for hot, dry and windy conditions. The increasing winds, higher temperatures, and lower humidity are expected to reach the area Saturday and will influence fire behavior through Tuesday. Gusty winds may lead to an increase in smoke production and allow smoke from other fires to move into the region.

During these conditions, outdoor activities have an increased chance of igniting new wildfires. Off road vehicle use, shooting, equipment use, and other activities that may create heat or sparks should be done with extreme caution, especially in grassy areas. The public should make sure that equipment is well maintained, with spark arrestors in good working condition.

Weather: A Red Flag Warning is in effect for hot, dry, and windy conditions. Clear skies, higher temperatures, and lower humidity is in the forecast for Saturday, with temperatures of 75-80 degrees at higher elevations and 85-90 degrees in valleys. Winds will be northwest at 10-18 mph with gusts at 25 mph or higher in some areas.

Evacuations: In the South Zone of the August Complex, evacuation orders are in place for portions of Mendocino and Lake 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/>.

Closures: Forest Order No. 08-20-13 is in effect for the Mendocino National Forest. Residents and property owners may return to their properties within the Mendocino National Forest in Glenn County and Tehama County, but access to the Forest Service closure area for other purposes, including hunting and recreation, is prohibited. Properties accessed via a Forest System road may require a permit from the US Forest Service. Please contact the Mendocino National Forest at 530-934-3316 for more information.

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