Rush Fire Update

August 21, 2012 8 am

Northern Rockies Incident Management Team – Doug Turman, IC

Fire Information Office:
530-710-8568
Staffed: 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

Started: August 12, 2012 at 6:42 pm
Cause: Lightning
Fuels: Fire is burning in sagebrush, juniper, and grass
Estimated Size: 297,816 acres
Containment: 50%
Expected Containment: 8/25/2012
Committed Resources: Approximately 760 people
Structures Threatened: 9 (6 residences; 1 commercial; 2 outbuildings)
Structures Damaged or Destroyed: 1 (barn)
Injuries: 2 (both in fire camp)

Location: The fire is located on Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Northern California District (BLM-CA-NOD,) Eagle Lake Field Office, approximately 15 miles southeast of Ravendale, California. The fire is burning near a major natural gas line and transfer station, and power transmission lines that supply the Reno area and adjacent to Highway 395.

Summary: Today will be a critical fire day with "Red Flag" conditions predicted to occur from one to nine p. m. due to low humidity and winds gusting to 35 mile per hour. Firefighters will concentrate on mop-up and holding containment lines and working to slow the spread in uncontained areas. As yesterday, the most troubling area is likely to be the northeast corner of the fire around the Buckhorn Road/Buffalo Hills Wilderness Study area. Ground and air forces will concentrate on flanking and minimizing the northeastern and eastern spread in this area. On the remainder of the perimeter, firefighters will seek out and mop-up any heat sources 300 feet and deeper into the fire perimeter.

Area and Road Closures in Effect: On August 17, the BLM issued a closure order for public lands in the fire area to protect public health and safety. The closed area is bounded by Highway 395 on the west, the Sand Pass Road on the east, and the Wendel Road on the south. The new northern boundary for the public land closure is the Juniper Ridge, Tuledad, Stage Road, Marr Road, and Buckhorn Road extending to Nevada Highway 447 in Washoe County. Routes closed within this closure area include the Ramhorn Springs, Rye Patch Road, Buckhorn, Shinn Ranch, Stoney, Deep Cut, Smoke Creek, Skedaddle Ranch, Dry Valley, and Brubeck roads. The Ramhorn Springs Campground and the Dodge Reservoir Campground also is closed.

Travelers along the Highway 395 corridor, please use caution where fire crews and equipment are working in the fire area.

Remarks: NOTE: Use of chainsaws on public lands managed by BLM in NE California and far northwest Nevada is suspended effective Monday, Aug. 20, due to extreme fire danger. Fire officials remind residents and visitors that fire restrictions are in effect for public lands and national forests in northeast California and far northwest Nevada. Campfires are permitted only in posted recreation sites.

For additional fire information, please go to InciWeb @ http://inciweb.org/incident/3151/

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