

Rush Fire Update

Thursday, August 23, 2012 8 a.m.

Northern Rockies Incident Management Team – Doug Turman, IC

Fire Information Office:

530-710-8568

Staffed: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Started: August 12, 2012 at 6:42 pm

Cause: Lightning

Fuels: Fire is burning in sagebrush, juniper, and grass

Estimated Size: 317,616 acres

Containment: 60%

Expected Containment: 8/28/2012

Committed Resources: 822 people

Structures Threatened: 39 (20 residences; 1 commercial; 18 outbuildings)

Structures Damaged or Destroyed: 1 (barn)

Injuries: 2 (both in fire camp)

Location: The fire started about 15 miles southeast of Ravendale, Calif., and is now measured to be about 42 miles long and 16 miles wide and is completely east of Highway 395. The fire began on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management's Eagle Lake Field Office.

Summary: Overnight, firefighters held fireline and made progress on the northeast tip of the Rush fire, some 20 miles east of Ravendale, Calif., in the Buffalo Hills, a few miles inside Nevada. Firefighters completed line and burned out around the "finger" that burned to Garden Lake on Wednesday. Aerial mapping was done with infrared cameras overnight.

Elsewhere, mop-up work will continue today. Much of the fire perimeter remains quiet. On Wednesday, patrols saw primarily creeping and smoldering in the interior. Suppression repair work is underway in the southern end of the fire, cleaning up from firefighting operations.

The weather forecast calls for increasing winds today, with southwest and west winds blowing 10 to 18 miles per hour and gusting to 25 to 30 miles per hour by early afternoon. Temperatures from 85-95 with relative humidity of 7 to 11 percent are forecast.

Conditions remain very dry. Even though most of the fire perimeter is contained, the dry vegetation coupled with high winds still pose a great risk for fire spread in the northeast corner of the fire. With sagebrush as dry as when it's dead, there's a ready source of "fuel" for the fire. Spot fires have been seen one-quarter mile ahead of the fire. Gusting winds have pushed the fire as fast as two miles an hour in the last few days.

Area and Road Closures in Effect: Public lands bounded by Highway 395 on the west, the Sand Pass road and Nevada 447 on the east, the Wendel Road on the south, and Juniper Ridge road to Buckhorn road on the north are closed. The Buffalo Meadows road in Washoe Co., Nev., is also closed.

Remarks: NOTE: Use of chainsaws on public lands managed by BLM in NE California and far northwest Nevada is suspended because of 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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