



Chips Fire Update

August 23 -- 8:00 P.M.



Location: Plumas and Lassen National Forests

Date started: July 29, 2012

Cause: Under investigation

Size: 63,147 acres

Containment: 55%

Personnel: 1,176 (Crews: 16 Type 1, 5 Type 2; Helicopters: 4 Type 1, 1 Type 2, 2 Type 3; Engines: 105; Dozers: 17; Water Tenders: 28)

Management: California Interagency Incident Management Team 4

Fire Status: Numerous air resources were utilized on the fire today including a DC-10 and five Type 1 helicopters dropping approximately 25,830 gallons of retardant on the eastern flank of the fire. These operations helped firefighters prepare for a burnout that will be executed tonight if favorable weather conditions hold. The burnout will secure and strengthen the eastern flank of the fire line around Rattlesnake Peak to the bottom of the north fork of the Feather River near Seneca.

Helicopter drops will continue into the evening as firefighters prepare for the firing operation. Crews will continue to mop-up fire lines along Highway 89. Patrol units will also stay in the communities of Prattville, Big Meadows and Canyon Dam areas searching for any additional spot fires.

Firefighters continue to work in a contained slop-over in the Rocky Point area. Power was returned to the PG&E line that services homes along the southwestern shore of Lake Almanor this morning after falling operations around the line were completed.

Afternoon winds gusts hit the fire line and produced spots in several areas of the fire including Red Hill. This has been a difficult section for firefighters to attack because of its steep, rocky terrain. Crews will be working on the spot that is within contingency lines through the night containing and mopping up the area.

Along the northern edge of the fire near Humbug, night crews will work on small spots that took hold during the afternoon wind event, while continuing patrols on the fire perimeter. The western flank of the fire around the Chips Creek drainage continues to produce heat and creep west as crews of hot shots work to construct hand line in an effort to prevent further movement. Because of the topography of the area, infra-red mapping will also be utilized to identify hot spots on the ground.

Evacuations and Closures: The Plumas County Sheriff's Department updated closure notices for the area in and around the fire today. Mandatory Evacuations continue to be enforced for the communities of Canyon Dam and the Big Meadows area. A Voluntary Evacuation is in place for Rush Creek, and an Advisory is in effect for Prattville residents for the potential threat of the fire to the area.

An evacuation Center continues to be available at the Chester Memorial Hall on Gay Street. For more information, please go to: <http://www.countyofplumas.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=536>

Community Meetings: A community meeting will be held tomorrow at 5:00 p.m. at the Twain Community Park, 130 Twain Store Road, Twain, CA.

Additional Fire Information: <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3052/> or call (530) 283-3593 and (530) 283-3288 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. Due to current conditions, beginning tomorrow these hours will change from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

