



United States Department of Agriculture

U.S. Forest Service  
Pacific Southwest Region  
Plumas National Forest  
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Fire Information (530) 316-4487  
[2020.northcomplex.info@firenet.gov](mailto:2020.northcomplex.info@firenet.gov)  
[www.facebook.com/USFSPlumas](https://www.facebook.com/USFSPlumas)  
[inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6997/](http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6997/)



## North Complex Fire Evening Update September 16, 2020

**Incident Start Date:** 8/17/2020      **Size:** 273,335 acres      **Containment:** 36%  
**Engines:** 251      **Handcrews:** 70      **Dozers:** 91      **Helicopters:** 28      **Water Tenders:** 102      **Total Personnel:** 3,147  
**Fatalities:** 15      **Structures Damaged/Destroyed:** 1,046

### Current Situation

#### *South Zone:*

Today crews strengthened containment lines and mopped up remaining heat north of Sly Creek Reservoir along Mooreville Ridge. Southwest winds caused the fire to remain active in Onion Valley, keeping the priority of reinforcing indirect fire line along ridges and roads tying into LaPorte Road.

Containment lines along the northeast portion of the fire continue to hold. Firefighters will continue patrolling, backhauling equipment and initiating road repairs.

#### *North Zone:*

As expected, fire behavior increased on Red Mountain today. Two spot fires approximately 11 and 23 acres in size were located in the Grizzly Lake area, south of Oro-Quincy Highway. Crews are working hard to contain the spots using existing roads, while also preparing indirect containment lines west to Oro-Quincy Highway. In the western portion of the fire, crews held the fire within containment lines and plan to continue preparing Oro-Quincy Highway north of Big Bend.

#### *West Zone:*

See CAL FIRE Team 4 updates at: [www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2020/8/18/north-complex-fire/](http://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2020/8/18/north-complex-fire/)

Structure protection groups are in place surrounding the fire's perimeter to protect nearby communities in both the North and South Zones. Tactical firing operations are unlikely in either zone due to the incoming wind event, but will be executed only in a defensive manner if needed.

**Twice daily video operational updates are available to watch on the Plumas National Forest Facebook Page, and once daily Zoom broadcasts of Planning and Cooperator meetings on Inciweb (links above).**

## **Evacuations and Road Closures**

Mandatory evacuation orders and advisories are in place for Butte, Plumas, and Yuba Counties. Please check your respective county's websites and Facebook pages for the latest on evacuations and road closures.

## **Weather and Air Quality**

Today smoky conditions improved for sunnier skies which increased fire behavior. Tonight, winds could reach up to 13 mph along ridges with an increase in relative humidity up to 36%.

Smoke outlook: [fires.airfire.org/outlooks/EasternSierra](https://fires.airfire.org/outlooks/EasternSierra) or [www.airnow.gov/](http://www.airnow.gov/)

**Forest-wide closure extended:** [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd804760.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd804760.pdf)

*California Interagency Incident Management Team 4 is implementing measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in both the fire area and surrounding communities.*