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Pacific Southwest Region
Plumas National Forest
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inciweb.nwccg.gov/incident/6997/



North Complex Fire Evening Update September 17, 2020

Incident Start Date: 8/17/2020 **Size:** 284,437 acres **Containment:** 40%
Engines: 235 **Handcrews:** 64 **Dozers:** 94 **Helicopters:** 24 **Water Tenders:** 103 **Total Personnel:** 2,982
Fatalities: 15 **Structures Damaged/Destroyed:** 1,201

Current Situation

South Zone:

Firefighters continue to make progress gaining containment from Sly Creek Reservoir to Little Grass Valley. Winds were strong earlier in the day within the steep terrain of Onion Valley. Crews worked hard to continue constructing indirect hand line tying into the middle fork of the Feather River along Fingerboard Ridge. This is a parallel ridgeline west of LaPorte Road. Helicopters were able to make drops in this active area of the fire to assist ground crews in inaccessible terrain. Smoke produced from this area of the fire blew northwest into Quincy and its surrounding communities east along highway 70.

North Zone:

Efforts to contain spot fires north of Red Mountain and Willow Creek continued today with hand crews and bulldozers. Crews are working hard to contain the spot fire using existing roads, while also preparing indirect containment lines west to Oro-Quincy Highway. Helicopters were also able to get in the air today to assist ground crews with the large spot fire near Grizzly Lake.

In the western portion of the fire, crews held the fire in check and plan to continue preparing Oro-Quincy Highway from the Four Trees area to Big Bend.

West Zone: See CAL FIRE Team 4 updates at: www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2020/8/18/north-complex-fire/

Several structure protection groups are in place surrounding the most active areas of the fire perimeter to protect nearby communities.

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

The Evacuation Advisory status in Meadow Valley and Tollgate was moved into an Evacuation Order at 10:00 a.m. by the Plumas County Sheriff's office.

Orders and Advisories are still in place for communities in Butte, Plumas, and Yuba Counties. Please check your respective county's websites and Facebook pages for the latest on evacuations and road closures. You can also sign up with your county for reverse 911 notifications by registering with the CODE RED system.

Weather and Air Quality

Southwest winds increased this afternoon, bringing gusts up to 35 mph and pushing smoke and ash outfall northeast. Tonight, the incoming cold front will bring more gusty and erratic winds at times up to 25 mph.

Smoke outlook: fires.airfire.org/outlooks/EasternSierra or www.airnow.gov/

Forest-wide closure extended: 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.