

Joint Release

California Interagency Incident Management Team 3 and Trinity County Sheriff

Helena and Fork Fire Update

September 3, 2017 9:30 p.m.

Fire Information: 530-628-0039 8am to 8pm / helenafireinfo@gmail.com

Helena Fire <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5564>

Fork Fire <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5577>

 @ShastaTrinityNF and @CALFIRESHU

 [USFSShastaTrinityNF](#) or [Trinity County Sherriff's Department](#)

Helena Fire - Date/Time Reported: August 30, 2017 **Cause:** Under investigation **Size:** 8,940 acres **Containment:** 14%
Location: near Junction City, CA

Status: As expected, when the inversion lifted this afternoon, the Helena and Fork fires became active. Firefighting personnel were advised of this possibility, and are moving equipment into place to improve a primary fire line along Low Gap, with a secondary fire line at East Weaver Creek.

Excessive heat and dry conditions are contributing to this rapidly changing fire environment. Firefighters are adjusting to develop and construct fire lines to keep the fire from moving into Weaverville. Residents in East Weaver Creek can help by preparing for the possibility of additional evacuations. Visit <http://www.readyforwildfire.org/Prepare-For-Wildfire/>. The priority of fire suppression efforts is to prevent further progression of the fire toward Weaverville.

Fork Fire - Date/Time Reported: August 7, 2017 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 1,050 acres **Containment:** 0%
Location: north of Monument Peak and southwest of East Fork Lakes in the Trinity Alps Wilderness.

Status: Firefighters spent the day scouting for access point and opportunities to engage the fire. Firefighters will assess the Grasshopper Flat area from Canyon Creek Road until air conditions permit flying resources into the wilderness.

Fire Resources:	Fire Crews	Fire Engines	Bulldozers	Water Tenders	Helicopters	Total Personnel
Helena Fire	24	113	16	4		1223
Fork Fire		2				12

Evacuations: The Trinity County Sheriff's Office issued an evacuation order for residents between Helena and Oregon Mountain Summit, including the Canyon Creek area; Red Hill Road and all roads off of Red Hill Road; Valdor Road; Canyon Creek and all roads off of Canyon Creek; Power House Road and Upper Road.

An evacuation center has been established at the First Baptist Church in Weaverville. The shelter for farm animals is located at the Trinity High School. Dogs and cats can be taken to the Trinity County Animal Shelter. A Local Assistance Center (LAC) will be set up in the near future to provide assistance for those affected by the fire. A specific date and time will be announced by the Office of Emergency Services soon.

Weather and Smoke: The fire area is under a hazardous weather outlook with an excessive heat warning. Smoke from fires in northern California and southern Oregon is creating unhealthy air conditions. Visit ncuaqmd.org for air quality information and hours and locations of clean air shelters.

Road Closures: The Highway 299 Road closure is from Helena Bridge to Sky Ranch Road. The Dutch Creek Road at Red Hill Road is closed due to safety concerns. State Route 299 will be intermittently open for east and westbound through traffic at 5:30 and 9:00 am, noon, and 3:00, 5:30 and 9:30 pm, if fire conditions permit. Traffic will be controlled by pilot car.

Wilderness / Recreation Access: The Canyon Creek and Hobo Gulch Trailheads are not accessible due to the Hwy 299 closure. Smoke and other potential hazards are present in Trinity Alps Wilderness due to nearby fires. The BLM Junction City Campground and Bagdad River Access along Highway 299 and the Grapevine Swimming Hole on East Fork Road are closed.