



## **Cedar Fire Update August 19, 2016, 8:00 PM**

### **Fire Information:**

Kernville Ranger District, 760-376-3781, phones staffed from 8:00 am to 9:00 pm  
Western Divide Ranger District, 559-539-2607 ext. 72212, phones staffed 8:00 am to 9:00 pm  
Website: [inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4964](http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4964)

**Size:** 12,790 acres

**Percent Contained:** 5 percent

**Total Personnel:** 1,058

**Resources:** 22 hand crews, 62 engines, 7 helicopters,  
13 dozers, 16 water tenders

**Fire Start:** August 16, 2016

**Location:** west of Kernville

**Cause:** under investigation

**Cost to Date:** \$5 million

### **Fire Summary:**

The fire was very active today. The significant smoke column that was visible all day from nearby communities was generated as the fire burned in the bowl south of Sunday peak on the southwest side. Last night and today firefighters wrapped the Tobias Peak and Baker Point Lookouts, and they remain intact. No structures have been damaged or destroyed. Firefighters held the fire within containment lines on the southern side along Highway 155. They also brushed and prepped fireline along the highway. Crews and dozer operators worked in and around threatened communities, providing point protection. Aircraft assisted firefighters on the ground with water and retardant drops, particularly on the northwest side near Panorama Heights.

Firefighters will work through the night, maintaining a presence in threatened communities, mainly on the south and west sides of the fire. The priority for crews working on perimeter control is to hold the fire on the south side, keeping it from becoming established south of Highway 155.

### **Weather and Fire Behavior:**

Fire-behavior analysts expect the fire to be very active again tonight. The maximum relative humidity should be around 35 percent, but the beetle-killed and drought-stressed vegetation, which is driving fire behavior, is so dry that the increase in humidity is unlikely to have a moderating effect. The fire has moved out of the tree-mortality area on the east side, and as a result, fire behavior should be less intense. The temperature will be in the upper 50s and lower 60s tonight. Westerly winds will be light on the ridgetops (5–10 mph). Downslope winds will also be light (3–7 mph).

### **Closures:**

The Sequoia National Forest has issued an area, road, and trail closure for the area affected by the Cedar Fire (Order No. 0513-16-18). The general boundaries of the closure are as follows: south of Highway 50, west of Highway 99, north of the Sawmill Road, and east of the western Forest boundary. For more the official closure and a map, go to the fire's page on Inciweb ([inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4964](http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4964)).

The following roads are closed:

- Highway 155 at the eastern junction of Pascoe Road on the west side to the Sequoia National Forest boundary on the east
- Forest Highway 90 from Highway 155 to Portuguese Pass
- Old State Road in Wofford Heights at its junction with Mountain Shadow Road

**Evacuations:**

The following communities in Tulare County are under a mandatory evacuation order:

- Posey
- Pine Flat
- Pine Mountain
- Sugar Loaf, including Sugar Mountain Park and Sugar Loaf Village
- California Hot Springs
- Panorama Heights
- McClenny Tract
- Spear Creek Mountain Homes
- White River Summer Homes
- Portuguese Meadow
- Balance Rock
- Idlewild
- Poso Peak

An American Red Cross evacuation shelter has been opened at Granite Hills High School—1701 E. Putnam Ave., Porterville—and is capable of sheltering comfort animals (e.g., cats and dogs). Evacuees with large animals and livestock can contact Terry Way's Ranch and Equine Rescue at 918-541-3572 (416 N. Anderson Way, Exeter). Call Tulare County Emergency Operations Center for more information (559-623-0200).

The following communities in Kern County are under a recommended evacuation order, which means the fire is an imminent threat and all people are strongly advised to leave and seek shelter away from the fire area. A recommended evacuation notice will likely be the last warning given.

- Alta Sierra
- Slick Rock
- Shirley Meadows

An evacuation center at St. Jude Catholic Church in Wofford Heights is open during the day for affected residents. American Red Cross: [safeandwell.communityos.org/cms/index.php](https://www.safeandwell.communityos.org/cms/index.php)

**Unified Command:** Incident Commanders Mike Minton, California Interagency Incident Management Team 5 representing the US Forest Service and Bill Steers, Kern County Fire Department.