



## **Cedar Fire Update August 20, 2016, 8:00 AM**

### **Community Meeting:**

California Interagency Incident Management Team 5 and Kern County Fire Department personnel, along with representatives from the Sequoia National Forest and Kern County Sheriff's Department will conduct a meeting for the public today at 6:30 pm at Faith Community (Four Square) Church, 20 Panorama Drive, Wofford Heights.

### **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:** 14,543 acres

**Percent Contained:** 5 percent

**Total Personnel:** 1,058

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

**Fire Start:** August 16, 2016

**Location:** west of Kernville

**Cause:** under investigation

**Cost to Date:** \$5.3 million

### **Fire Summary:**

No structures have been damaged or destroyed. Firefighters finished wrapping the Tobias Peak and Baker Point Lookouts yesterday, and they remain intact. The significant smoke column that was visible yesterday from nearby communities was generated as the fire burned in the bowl south of Sunday peak on the southwest side. Crews have successfully kept the fire from advancing further south of Highway 155. They continue to brush along the road and mop up along the fireline.

Last night, the fire was active, but less so than the night before. For example, it was primarily backing downslope toward Highway 155 and the community of Panorama Heights. Crews monitored the fire though the night, and on the southeast side they were able to install hose along existing fireline.

One of today's priorities is to work on perimeter control and hold the fire behind established firelines. Dozer operators will construct more line, and crews with hand tools will fine tune and connect those lines. They will be assisted by aircraft, which are available to water and retardant drops and reconnaissance and mapping flights. Another priority remains the protection of immediately threatened communities

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

An inversion over the fire area led to reduced fire-behavior last night. When the inversion lifts, analysts expect fire activity to increase. The fire has moved out of the tree-mortality area on the east side, and as a result, fire behavior should be less intense. In a significant portion of the fire, fire behavior is being driven more by the dry, beetle-killed and drought-stressed vegetation than by wind. The intense fire behavior and the high likelihood of trees falling in burned and unburned areas, pose serious hazards to firefighters, limiting their ability to directly access the fire's edge.

The temperature will be in the 80s to low 90s. The minimum relative humidity is expected to be around 15 percent. Light, variable winds will be 5-10 mph, gusting to 15 mph. Monsoonal moisture brings a slight chance of thunderstorms to the fire area today. Dry lightning and gusty winds could accompany the storms. The incident meteorologist expects any thunderstorms that do develop to likely remain north of the fire area.

**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. Go to the fire's webpage on Inciweb for the official closure and a map ([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 areas within Wofford Heights are under a precautionary evacuation order, which means that the fire may become a threat in the near future. All residents are advised to be prepared to leave the area at a moment's notice.

- Pala Ranches
- Homestead Tract
- Residences north of Anchorage Road

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

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

Call Tulare County Emergency Operations Center for more information (559-623-0200).

Evacuation Shelters:

- St. Jude's Catholic Church, Wofford Heights (open during the day).
- Granite Hills High School in Porterville (1701 E. Putnam Ave). The shelter is capable of accommodating 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).

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