



Cedar Fire Update August 20, 2016, 8:00 p.m.

Community Meetings:

California Interagency Incident Management Team 5 and Kern County Fire Department personnel, with representatives from the Sequoia National Forest and the Kern County Sheriff's Office, will provide fire updates and answer questions at two public meetings on Sunday, August 21:

- Linns Valley-Poso Flat Elementary School, 158 White River Rd., Glennville, at 5 p.m.
- Ducor Union Elementary School cafeteria, 23761 Ave. 56, Ducor, at 7:30 p.m.

Fire Information:

Kern River Ranger District: 760-376-3781. Phones are staffed from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Western Divide Ranger District: 559-539-2607, ext. 72212. Phones are staffed from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Website: inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4964

Size: 15,763 acres

Percent Contained: 5 percent

Total Personnel: 1,197

Resources: 24 hand crews, 85 engines, 13 helicopters, 17 dozers, 21 water tenders

Fire Start: August 16, 2016

Location: West of Kernville, Calif.

Cause: Under investigation

Cost to Date: \$8 million

Fire Summary:

Smoke persisted over the fire area most of the day, providing shade that helped raise relative humidity and slow fire growth. The acreage increase—approximately 1,200 acres—was the smallest increment since the fire started. On the west perimeter, the fire crossed Sandy Creek Road in several places. Building direct line to contain these stringers of fire was not possible, but firefighters today scouted a route where a dozer line can be constructed toward Telephone Ridge to protect ranches and homes south of Sandy Creek Road. Structure protection continued in the Panorama Heights area on the west side, with firefighters using dozer lines, hose lays, and retardant drops to protect homes that might be in the fire's path. Firefighters built line around a two-acre spot fire near Tobias Peak. A contingency line, consisting of dozer and handline, from Tobias Meadow to Baker Point was expected to be completed tonight. Tonight, firefighters will aim to check fire growth, so that contingency lines can continue to be built away from the fire's leading edges.

Weather and Fire Behavior:

The fire has moved out of areas of heavy beetle-killed trees on the east and south sides. But with all vegetation remaining dry and drought-stressed, active fire behavior and smoke are expected overnight. The intense fire behavior and threat of weakened and dead trees falling in burned and unburned areas remain hazardous for firefighters, limiting their ability to work close to the fire's edge.

The slight chance of thunderstorms predicted for the fire area today failed to materialize, with no storms developing closer than 30 miles away. Dry weather and partly cloudy skies are expected overnight, with maximum relative humidity expected to reach 30 to 40 percent. Terrain-driven winds will prevail, with westerly ridge winds to around 10 mph in the early evening, becoming northwest overnight.

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). General boundaries of the closure: south of Highway 50, west of Highway 99, north of Sawmill Road, and east of the western Forest boundary. The official closure order and a map are posted at inciweb.nwccg.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 for Kern County communities.

- Alta Sierra
- Slick Rock
- Shirley Meadows

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

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

For more information, call the Tulare County Emergency Operations Center: 559-623-0200.

Evacuation Shelters:

- St. Jude's Catholic Church, Wofford Heights (open 24 hours a day)
- First Baptist Church of Lake Isabella, 3701 Suhre St., Lake Isabella
- Granite Hills High School in Porterville (1701 E. Putnam Ave). The shelter can accommodate cats, dogs and other small pets. 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 U.S. Forest Service, and Bill Steers, Kern County Fire Department.