



Cedar Fire Update August 21, 2016, 8:00 a.m.

Community Meetings Today:

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 this evening:

- 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:

Kernville 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: 17,986 acres

Percent Contained: 5 percent

Total Personnel: 1,197

Resources: 24 hand crews, 85 engines, 15 aircraft, 17 dozers, 21 water tenders

Fire Start: August 16, 2016

Location: West of Kernville, Calif.

Cause: Under investigation

Cost to Date: \$8.2 million

Fire Summary:

After the inversion lifted yesterday afternoon, Wofford Heights residents could see flames to the north from Black Mountain to Split Mountain. To protect the community, firefighters are building dozer and hand line north of Wofford Heights and improving lines used in previous fires. Toward Alta Sierra and Greenhorn, the fire is backing slowly downslope to Highway 155, clearing out the understory as it approaches the road. On the western side, firefighters are improving Sandy Creek Road from Highway 155 north toward Panorama Heights. Yesterday, they scouted a route where a dozer line can be constructed toward Telephone Ridge to protect ranch grasslands to the southwest. Structure protection continues in areas around Panorama Heights, Pine Flat, Poso Park, Sugarloaf Peak, and Sugarloaf Mountain Park. Firefighters are building dozer lines, laying hose, and using retardant drops in these areas to protect homes should the fire move north out of Spear Creek. Yesterday they also completed a contingency line from Tobias Peak to Baker Point. Smoke persisted over the fire area yesterday, providing shade that helped raise relative humidity and slow fire growth.

Weather and Fire Behavior:

Smoky conditions this morning will remain until the inversion breaks. A 20 percent chance of afternoon thunderstorms, with potential for lightning and gusty, erratic outflow winds, is predicted for the fire area today. Measurable rain is not expected. The temperature will be similar to yesterday, with a slightly higher relative humidity.

The fire has moved out of areas of heavy beetle-killed trees on the east and south sides, making direct fireline construction in certain areas possible. The vegetation remains critically dry. Firefighters remain at risk from weakened and dead trees falling in burned and unburned areas, limiting their ability to work close to the fire's edge.

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 and a map is posted at 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 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: 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.