



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

Fire Information:

Kernville Ranger District: 760-376-3781, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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

Website: inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4964

Email: cedarfire08162016@gmail.com

Size: 19,214 acres (1,228 increase)

Percent Contained: 5 percent

Total Personnel: 1,836

Resources: 28 hand crews, 171 engines, 15 aircraft, 18 dozers, 25 water tenders

Fire Start: August 16, 2016

Location: West of Kernville, Calif.

Cause: Under investigation

Cost to Date: \$11.1 million

Fire Summary: Slightly stronger winds shifted to the southwest this afternoon, pushing smoke east into Riverkern and Kernville. At higher elevations, the smoke dissipated as the inversion lifted this afternoon, allowing aircraft to conduct water and retardant drops and reconnaissance flights. Firefighters constructed contingency handline and laid hose around Riverkern and Kernville. Crews remain on standby in those communities as a precautionary measure.

Most of the smoke produced today that is now affecting valley communities came from the northwest side of the fire where it crossed Spear Creek and is burning toward Sugarloaf Peak.

Early this evening, the fire advanced downslope to within approximately one mile from the upper Wofford Heights area. Protecting communities in that area is the priority for firefighters, who are actively engaged and working through the night to suppress the fire.

Many firefighters are moving from the incident command post at Camp 9 to a base camp that has been established in Glennville at the rodeo grounds (196 Pacoe Road). It is closer to the fire, allowing firefighters to spend more of their day working on the fireline rather than commuting. Some crews will move to the north side of the fire to a spike camp at R Ranch in Johnsondale.

Weather and Fire Behavior:

Fire behavior was moderated early in the day with the inversion in place but increased as the inversion broke at higher elevations mid-afternoon. The critically dry and beetle-killed vegetation is being thoroughly consumed as it burns in much of the fire, generating abundant smoke. Where the fire is burning in timber, for example on the west and northwest sides, it is steadily backing (not running) with intensity and very resistant to control. Where it is burning in grass and shrubs, it's very responsive to wind speed: burning quickly with increased winds and creeping when winds decrease.

Winds were slightly stronger today but remain atypically weak for this area. A very weak thunderstorm occurred about 20 miles north of the area not affecting fire behavior. Tomorrow, the chance of thunderstorms increases to around 40 percent. Winds will be slightly stronger than previous nights (gusting to 15 mph), temperatures slightly cooler (50s to mid-60s), and the maximum humidity slightly higher (50 percent).

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 **Calgary Drive in Wofford Heights** 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 have been elevated to a recommended evacuation status this evening. The fire is an imminent threat and people are strongly advised to leave and seek shelter away from the fire area.

- Pala Ranches
- Homestead Tract
- Residences north of Anchorage Road, including Earl Pascoe Road

The following communities in Kern County remain under a recommended evacuation order

- Alta Sierra
- Slick Rock
- Shirley Meadows

The area east of Highway 155 and north of Wofford Blvd. is now 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. **At this time, no other parts of Wofford Heights apart from those listed are under any evacuation order.**

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.

Shelters:

An American Red Cross full-service shelter has been set up in Lake Isabella at the First Baptist Church of Lake Isabella (3701 Suhre Street). Kern County Animal Services will assist with sheltering companion animals at the center. If you have physical limitations and require evacuation assistance, please call the Aging and Adult Services hotline (855-264-6565).

A shelter is also in Porterville at the Granite Hills High School (1701 E. Putnam Ave) To shelter large animals or livestock, contact Terry Way's Ranch and Equine Rescue: 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.