



Cedar Fire Update August 23, 2016, 8:00 a.m.

Fire Information:

Kernville Ranger District: 760-376-3781, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Western Divide Ranger District: 559-539-2607, ext. 72284, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Website: inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4964
Email: cedarfire08162016@gmail.com

Size: 21,017 acres (869 acre increase from this morning)
Percent Contained: 5 percent
Total Personnel: 2,067
Resources: 34 hand crews, 177 engines, 15 aircraft,
23 dozers, 27 water tenders

Fire Start: August 16, 2016
Location: West of Kernville, Calif.
Cause: Under investigation
Cost to Date: \$16 million

Fire Summary:

Overnight, firefighters built upon the successful work started by crews Monday afternoon by keeping the fire from spreading toward Wofford Heights. Today, firefighters will again focus on holding the fire at Highway 155 and keeping it away from the Southern California Edison 66kv transmission lines.

Firefighters extinguished spot fires in and around structures in Panorama Heights. Defense of the seasonal cabins and residences in the area remains a priority. Firefighters assigned to the Cedar Fire, along with local agency personnel, responded to and are managing the lightning caused fires that started on Monday.

Improvement of containment lines on the east side of the fire will continue today as firefighters look for opportunities to establish ideal places to hold the fire should it advance in that direction.

Weather and Fire Behavior:

Today's return to dryer conditions and warmer temperatures will lead to an increase in fire behavior and potential for growth. Fire behavior is exacerbated by tree mortality from long-term drought and bark beetles. Heavy timber and dead trees hold a lot of heat and are challenging firefighting efforts.

Areas of smoke will remain in the fire area through the morning. Today will be mostly sunny with only a slight chance of an afternoon thunderstorm in the northern area of the fire. Breezy conditions and the topography of the fire area are significant factors contributing to fire growth.

Closures:

The Sequoia National Forest has issued area, road and trail closures 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 are posted at inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4964.

The following roads are closed in Kern County:

- Highway 155 from the eastern junction of Pascoe Road toward Wofford Heights at a point west of Miller Road.
- Forest Highway 90 from Highway 155 to Portuguese Pass.
- Old State Road in Wofford Heights at its junction with Mountain Shadow Road.

Tulare County has established the following road closures in response to the Cedar Fire:

- Mountain Road (M)-56, Hot Springs Road, at M-109, Old Stage Road, (Fountain Springs) for eastbound traffic.
- M-50, Parker Pass Road, at Johnsondale for westbound traffic.
- M-107, Western Divide Highway, at M-50, Parker Pass Road, for southbound traffic.
- M-3, White River Road, at Jack Ranch Road (Posey) for eastbound traffic.
- M-112, Deer Creek Road, at Road 296 for eastbound traffic.

Evacuations:

The following areas remain under a recommended evacuation. This is because 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
- Alta Sierra
- Slick Rock
- Shirley Meadows

The area north of Highway 155 and west of Wofford Boulevard 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. 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:

- Weldon at South Fork Elementary School (6401 Fay Ranch Road).
- First Baptist Church of Lake Isabella (3701 Suhre Street).
- Granite Hills High School (1701 E. Putnam Ave in Porterville).

Kern County Animal Services will assist with sheltering companion animals at the First Baptist Church of Lake Isabella. To shelter large animals or livestock, contact Terry Way's Ranch and Equine Rescue: 918-541-3572 (416 N. Anderson Way, Exeter).

If you have physical limitations and require evacuation assistance, call the Aging and Adult Services hotline (855-264-6565).

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.