



## **Cedar Fire Update August 23, 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. 72284, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Website: [inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4964](http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4964)  
Email: [cedarfire08162016@gmail.com](mailto:cedarfire08162016@gmail.com)

**Size:** 21,523 acres (506 acre increase from this morning)

**Percent Contained:** 10 percent

**Total Personnel:** 2,244

**Resources:** 35 hand crews, 193 engines, 15 aircraft,  
25 dozers, 33 water tenders

**Fire Start:** August 16, 2016

**Location:** West of Kernville, Calif.

**Cause:** Under investigation

**Cost to Date:** \$19.2 million

### **Fire Summary:**

Fire activity was moderate for most of the day, increasing only in late afternoon. Firefighters took advantage of the slower fire activity and made good progress across much of the fire. The north side of the fire near Speak Creek was most active, generating abundant smoke that was visible from and affecting nearby communities. No structures were damaged today. There was also significant fire activity again on Black Mountain down to the ridge above Cane Creek. Crews reported making good progress on containment-line construction, including the area west of Baker Peak.

Tonight, the highest priority for placement of personnel and equipment is the west side in Panorama Heights and other nearby communities, which are most imminently threatened by the fire. Crews will also be patrolling and working on the south and southeast sides near Alta Vista and Wofford Heights. An airplane that can spot areas of concentrated heat will be on duty, and two night-flight helicopters will be available if firefighters on the ground need their assistance. As always, the goal is to hold and maintain the work that the day shift accomplished.

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

Clear skies are forecast Tuesday night, with temperatures expected to drop into the 50s across much of the fire area. Relative humidity is forecast to recover to about 40 percent overnight. Firefighters will see downslope and valley winds gusting to 12 m.p.h. in many areas and up to 25 m.p.h. in the Kern River Canyon.

Smoke will be an issue for firefighters overnight, limiting their visibility and their ability to construct and hold fireline. Active burning can be expected until midnight in all areas and all night long where heavy vegetation exists. The fire has been growing by about 1,000 acres each night. Hot, dry conditions are expected for several days, with longer burn periods and increased fire activity expected.

### **National Forest 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](http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4964).

### **Kern County Evacuations and Closures:**

The following areas remain under a recommended evacuation order. 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 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 roads are closed in Kern County:

- Highway 155 between Lakeside Drive and Miller Road.
- Miller Road and Lakeside Drive.
- Forest Highway 90 from Highway 155 to Portuguese Pass.
- Old State Road in Wofford Heights at its junction with Mountain Shadow Road.

#### **Tulare County Evacuations and Closures:**

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

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

- M-56 "Hot Springs Rd." is closed at M-109 "Old Stage Rd." near Fountain Springs into the evacuated areas around California Hot Springs.
- M-3 "White River Rd." is closed at Jack Ranch Road east into the evacuated areas around Posey and Panorama Heights.
- M-50 "Parker Pass Rd." is closed at Johnsondale for westbound traffic.
- M-50 "Parker Pass Rd." is closed at M-107 "Western Divide Hwy. aka Mountain Hwy. 90" into the evacuated areas around California Hot Springs.
- M-112 "Deer Creek Rd." is closed at Rd 296 into the evacuated areas around California Hot Springs.
- State Route 190 is open only by CHP escort between Coffee Camp and Wishon Dr. (east of Springville) due to the Tule Fire. Expect delays.

For more information, call the Tulare County Emergency Operations Center: 559-623-0200, option 6 for the public information officer. Continuous ringing indicates a busy line, and there is no voicemail.

#### **Shelters:**

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