



Cedar Fire Update August 24, 2016, 8:00 p.m.

Fire Information:

Kernville Ranger District:

760-376-3781

8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Media Inquiries: PIO Anthony Romero

661-330-0161

Email: cedarfire08162016@gmail.com

Western Divide Ranger District:

559-539-2607, ext. 72284

8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Website: inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4964

Size: 23,239 (500 acre increase from this morning)

Percent Contained: 10 percent

Total Personnel: 2,374

Resources: 36 hand crews, 209 engines, 16 aircraft, 25 dozers, 35 water tenders

Fire Start: August 16, 2016

Location: West of Kernville, Calif.

Cause: Under investigation

Cost to Date: \$24.4 million

Fire Summary:

Firefighters successfully improved containment lines along many sections of the fire perimeter on Wednesday. A firing operation along the north side of the fire produced a large smoke column and was described as a "textbook" operation by fire managers. Aerial ignition was utilized to remove unburned fuels and secure a good line along the southern portion of the fire, part of an effort to increase containment along Highway 155. Hand and dozer was completed along Tobias Peak, with aerial ignition of that area planned for the next day or two. Continued progress was reported on Black Mountain with the use of aircraft and helicopters. The recent hard work in Panorama Heights paid off today as fire stayed clear of structures in the area. While good containment lines have been expanded along the northeast portion of the fire, a portion of the fire has moved off of Baker Ridge into the upper reaches of Stormy Canyon drainage.

The goal for Wednesday evening remains perimeter control and completing and improving containment. Protection of structures around Panorama Heights and Sugaloaf is the evening's highest priority. A night air attack aircraft and two night-flying helicopters are available to support firefighters, but windy conditions and areas of thick smoke may limit their use.

Earlier Wednesday, Tulare County Emergency Operations Center confirmed that six cabins in Spear Creek were destroyed.

Weather and Fire Behavior:

The area is under the influence of a very dry air mass. Relative humidity in some areas may not climb above 30-percent overnight, allowing for active burning well into the evening. Gusty winds along ridgetops and in the Kern River Valley are expected to continue through the evening before diminishing after midnight. Overnight low temperatures will range from the 60s at lower elevations to the 40s in the higher mountains.

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.

Partial Campground Closures:

Campgrounds along the Upper Kern River will temporarily close tomorrow morning, August 25th, due to existing and potential impacts of the Cedar Fire. The top priority in suppressing wildland fires is to provide for firefighter and public safety. With that said, the Upper Kern river camping corridor has been experiencing some ember activity, falling ash and heavy smoke, which has been causing low visibility. In order to keep residents and visitors safe, the campgrounds along the Upper Kern river corridor, along Mountain 99, north of Kernville, will close temporarily. However, the road remains open, and day use will still be allowed. Day use will be from sunrise to dusk. We are asking your cooperation in this matter to keep this corridor safe not only for yourselves but for any unforeseen immediate suppression action by ground and air firefighting resources. Campers will be redirected to other areas in and around the Sequoia National Forest, for their camping enjoyment. For those with reservations through the National Recreation Reservation Service, California Land Management, please call (760) 376-1815. For information on the fire activity, please call the Kernville Ranger Station at (760) 376-3781, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., 7 days a week.

Kern County Evacuations and Closures:

Kern County has two types of evacuations: precautionary and recommended. A precautionary evacuation 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. A recommended evacuation means that the fire is an imminent threat and people are strongly advised to leave and seek shelter away from the fire area. This may be the last notice people receive.

The following areas in Kern County are under a recommended evacuation: Pala Ranches, Homestead Tract, Residences north of Anchorage Road, including Earl Pascoe Road, Alta Sierra, Slick Rock, and Shirley Meadows.

The following areas in Kern County are under precautionary evacuation: (NEW) In Kernville, on the west side of the Kern River, residences from Diablo Road north to the Kern-Tulare County line, (NEW) In Kernville, on the east side of the Kern River, residences from Camp Erwin Owen north to the Kern-Tulare County line, including the Riverkern community, and in Wofford Heights, the area east of Highway 155 and north of Wofford Boulevard.

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:

Tulare County has two types of evacuations: voluntary and mandatory. A voluntary evacuation means that residents should either evacuate or be prepared to do so should conditions worsen. A mandatory evacuation means that residents should evacuate.

The following is under a voluntary evacuation: (NEW) The Johnsondale area, including Johnsondale south to Chamise Flat Campground.

The following are under a mandatory evacuation: 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, and Poso Park.

Tulare County road update: M-50 "Parker Pass Rd." is now OPEN in both directions between Johnsondale and M-107 "Western Divide Hwy."

Current Tulare County road closures:

- 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 M-107 "Western Divide Hwy." aka "Mountain Hwy. 90" prohibiting westbound travel 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.

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.