



## **Cedar Fire Update August 25, 2016, 8:00 a.m.**

### **Fire Information:**

#### **Kernville Ranger District:**

760-376-3781

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:** 26,135 (2,896 acre increase from last evening)

**Percent Contained:** 15 percent

**Total Personnel:** 2,374

**Resources:** 36 hand crews, 219 engines, 16 aircraft, 25 dozers, 35 water tenders

#### **Western Divide Ranger District:**

559-539-2607, ext. 72284

8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Media Inquiries:** PIO Anthony Romero

661-330-0161

**Fire Start:** August 16, 2016

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

**Cause:** Under investigation

**Cost to Date:** \$24.5 million

### **Fire Summary:**

Firefighters continued to improve containment lines overnight. Firing operations are, for the most part, responsible for the acreage increase. This work has successfully removed vegetation, bringing the fire's perimeter to areas where crews can more easily build containment lines. Firing operations in and around Baker Point have checked the fire's advance to the north. On the southwest corner below Bohana Peak between McFarland and Cedar Creeks, the removal of unburned vegetation down to Sandy Creek Road has allowed crews to improve containment north of Highway 155, ensuring the continuity of the Southern California Edison 66kv transmission lines.

The fire continues to creep down into the Stormy Creek and Bull Run Basin areas on the eastern side. This has led the Forest Service, in cooperation with fire managers and other cooperators, to not allow overnight camping in the upper Kern River valley. This precautionary move will allow firefighters to better focus on suppression efforts. The recreation areas are still accessible for day use as Mountain 99 remains open.

Today, crews will continue to improve containment lines from Split Mountain to Cane Peak and Black Mountain, slowing the fire's advance toward Wofford Heights and Highway 155. Structure-defense work continues to reinforce the fire's perimeter in the Panorama Heights area.

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

The area is under the influence of a very dry air mass. Relative humidity continues to drop, drying vegetation in front of the fire. Gusty winds again this afternoon will be strongest in the Kern River Canyon and over exposed ridgetops. Dry conditions will persist into the weekend.

### **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).

### **Partial Campground Closures:**

Campgrounds along the Upper Kern River have been temporarily closed to overnight camping starting today 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. The upper Kern River camping corridor has been experiencing falling ash and embers and heavy smoke, which has been causing low visibility. 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 precautionary evacuation: In Kernville, on the west side of the Kern River, residences from Diablo Road north to the Kern-Tulare County line. On the east side of the Kern River, residences from Camp Erwin Owen north to the Kern-Tulare County line, including the Riverkern community. In Wofford Heights, the area east of Highway 155 and north of Wofford Boulevard.

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 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: 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.