



## Cedar Fire Update August 26, 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:** 27,586 (741 acre increase from last evening)

**Percent Contained:** 20 percent

**Total Personnel:** 2,389

**Resources:** 26 hand crews, 16 aircraft, 222 engines, 27 dozers, 33 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:** \$27.7 million

### Fire Summary:

Fire crews were very busy overnight in the Panorama Heights and Sugarloaf areas. The firing operation continued through the night to protect homes in the area. Two night-flying capable helicopters that dropped buckets of water to manage the fire's movement on their terms supported crews on the ground.

Containment lines were improved on the northern end of the fire around Tobias and Baker Peaks, building on yesterday's successful firing operations. Efforts to expand containment lines north of Highway 155 has resulted in a perimeter that fire managers are confident in. Despite fire activity through the night, containment lines were not compromised. Flames on the slopes of Black Mountain are a visible indicator of the fire cleaning up unburned pockets of vegetation within the perimeter.

### Weather and Fire Behavior:

Little change in temperature and relative humidity is forecast for today as a large dry air mass remains over the region. Light southeast ridge winds in the morning are expected to shift to the southwest and then west during mid to late afternoon. Terrain-driven winds will prevail with gusty conditions in the Kern River Canyon. These conditions will last through the weekend, trending a little warmer and drier into early next 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.

**NEW CHANGE:** Effective at 11 a.m. the following areas have been lowered from **recommended to precautionary evacuation**:

- Pala Ranches
- Homestead Tract
- Residences north of Anchorage Road, including Earl Pascoe Road
- Alta Sierra – with the exception of the Forest Service Recreation Cabins at Summit Road, Weeping Springs and Slick Rock.

The following areas remain in 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.

**Updated road closures** in Kern County:

**SOFT CLOSURE:** Soft closures allow access to residents only (no thru traffic).

**KERN COUNTY SOFT CLOSURES:** Highway 155 at Calgary Drive, Old State Road at Mt. Shadow Drive

**KERN COUNTY HARD ROAD CLOSURES:** Between Highway 155 at Rancheria Road and Highway 155 at Lakeside Drive

**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.

**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:**

Because of the fire, campgrounds along Mountain 99 north of Kernville in the upper Kern River corridor are closed temporarily to overnight camping. The road remains open, and day use of the area—from sunrise to sunset—is still allowed. People with reservations through the campground reservation systems should go to [reserveusa.com](http://reserveusa.com) or call (877) 444-6777.

**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.