



## Cedar Fire Update August 26, 2016, 8:00 p.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:** 28,840 (1,995 acre increase from this morning)

**Percent Contained:** 20 percent

**Total Personnel:** 2,418

**Resources:** 39 hand crews, 16 aircraft, 196 engines, 25 dozers, 39 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:** \$31.2 million

### Fire Summary:

Clear, sunny skies led to more active fire behavior today in some areas that had been relatively quiet the past couple of days. Late Friday afternoon, the fire advanced along the north flank in the area of Tobias Peak, but was reconnected to containment lines due to the hard work of fire crews. The eastern perimeter of the fire, which has been showing little heat or smoke, also saw fire activity pick up this afternoon. The fire moved along both sides of Stormy Canyon and into the Bull Run drainage. Retardant drops by helicopters on Black Mountain have kept the fire from reaching Highway 155, with fire managers feeling good about containment efforts across the southern edge of the fire. Preparatory work for a firing operation to strengthen containment on the west side along Sandy Creek Road from Highway 155 toward Peel Ridge is progressing well.

The focus for tonight continues to be perimeter control and structure defense in Panorama Heights and Sugarloaf. Crews assigned to the Tobias Peak area have been tasked with containing the late-afternoon fire advance. Firefighters will continue the containment work begun by the day shift across the rest of the fireline.

### Weather and Fire Behavior:

It will be another warm, smoky night across the fire. The fire is expected to burn actively until after dusk. Gusty winds along ridgetops and the Kern River Valley will diminish after midnight, with temperatures dropping into the 50s and 60s overnight and relative humidity recovery in the 30-40 percent range.

### Kern County Evacuations and Closures:

Kern County has two levels 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.

**As of 11 a.m. today,** the following areas were 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 through 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 levels 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.

**As of 3:00 p.m. Friday, officials downgraded the mandatory evacuation order for the communities of California Hot Springs and Pine Flat.** Voluntary evacuations are still in place. Residents of these two communities previously evacuated due to the Cedar Fire may choose to return to their properties. Residents must show proof of residence to posted law enforcement prior to entering the previously evacuated areas. Though downgraded, conditions may change in the next 36 hours possibly causing officials to once again issue mandatory evacuations. Returning residents should show caution and personal safety and be aware of possible debris and smoke inhalation.

The Johnsondale area, including Johnsondale south to Chamise Flat Campground, also remains under a voluntary evacuation.

The following areas are under a mandatory evacuation: Posey; Pine Mountain; Sugarloaf, including Sugarloaf Mountain Park and Sugarloaf Village; Panorama Heights; McClenny Tract; Spear Creek Mountain Homes; White River Summer Homes; Pine Mountain Ranch Homes; Rainbow Ranch Homes; Portuguese Meadow; Balance Rock; Idlewild; and Poso Park.

**Updated road closures in Tulare County:**

- M-50 "Parker Pass Rd." at M-107 "Western Divide Hwy." a.k.a. "Mountain Hwy. 90" is partially closed.
- Pine Flat Road is closed at Mentor Meadow Road in Pine Flat.
- There is a "soft closure" of M-56 "Hot Springs Rd." at M-109 "Old Stage Rd." near Fountain Springs (residents must show identification to enter the area).
- M-3 "White River Rd." is closed at Jack Ranch Road east into the evacuated areas around Posey and Panorama Heights.
- M-112 "Deer Creek Rd." is closed at Rd. 296.

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. Forest Road 90 will remain closed. The official closure and a map are posted at [inciweb.nwccg.gov/incident/4964](http://inciweb.nwccg.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:**

- 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.