



Cedar Fire Update August 27, 2016, 8:00 a.m.

Kernville Ranger District:

760-376-3781

8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Website: inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4964

Media Inquiries: PIO Nathan Judy 626-716-0846

PIO Anthony Romero 661-330-0161

Western Divide Ranger District:

559-539-2607, ext. 72284

8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Email: cedarfire08162016@gmail.com

Size: 28,840 (no change from last evening)

Percent Contained: 20 percent

Total Personnel: 2,418

Resources: 39 hand crews, 17 aircraft, 196 engines,
25 dozers, 39 water tenders

Fire Start: August 16, 2016

Location: West of Kernville, Calif.

Cause: Under investigation

Cost to Date: \$31.7 million

Fire Summary:

Dry weather led to active burning in the southwest and western sides of the fire. Overnight, crews laid more hose though those areas to better control the fire's advance. They also were very busy successfully holding yesterday's firing operations and responding to spot fires. The fire was also active yesterday near Tobias Peak, and fire managers repositioned crews from other parts of the fire to work through the night to keep the fire from advancing. The fire continued to move eastward into the old Bull Fire scar and the Stormy Creek Canyon. Safe access is difficult in this very steep area, so operations personnel are developing a plan to bring the fire to an area better suited for containment. Night-flying helicopters dropped water on an active spot fire in the rugged terrain of Black Mountain, moderating the fire's activity until crews can move into the area today.

Priorities today include improving containment lines along Highway 155 and north along Sandy Creek Road on the west side of the fire. Crews remain in Panorama Heights and Sugarloaf, defending residences in these and other nearby mountain communities.

Weather and Fire Behavior:

The relative humidity recovery was poor last night, and the dry vegetation remains very susceptible to spotting. Despite an increase in fire behavior, however, the perimeter is not increasing significantly. Warm, dry weather will continue today and persist into next week. Easterly winds through the morning will transition to westerly in the early afternoon with moderate gusts into the evening. Areas of smoke will still be prevalent around much of the fire, and active fire will be visible from many surrounding communities.

Kern County Evacuations:

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.

Yesterday, the following areas were downgraded from recommended to precautionary evacuation:

- Pala Ranches
- Homestead Tract
- Residences north of Anchorage Road, including Earl Pascoe Road
- Alta Sierra, with the exception of 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.

Kern County Road Closures:

Soft closure (only residents with photo ID): Highway 155 at Calgary Drive; Old State Road at Mt. Shadow Drive

Hard closure: between Highway 155 at Rancheria Road and Highway 155 at Lakeside Drive

Tulare County Evacuations:

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.

Yesterday, officials downgraded the evacuation order from mandatory to voluntary for the communities of California Hot Springs and Pine Flat. The Johnsondale area, including Johnsondale south to Chamise Flat Campground, remains under a voluntary evacuation. Voluntary evacuations require proof of residency to enter.

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.

Tulare County Road Closures:

- 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.

Partial Campground Closures:

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 allowed. People with reservations through the campground reservation systems should go to 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.