



## **Cedar Fire Update August 31, 2016, 8:00 p.m.**

### **Kernville Ranger District:**

760-376-3781  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Website:** [inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4964](http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4964)

**Email:** [cedarfire08162016@gmail.com](mailto:cedarfire08162016@gmail.com)

**Size:** 29,322 (no change)

**Percent Contained:** 80 percent

**Total Personnel:** 1,668

**Resources:** 36 hand crews, 8 aircraft, 67 engines,  
16 dozers, 32 water tenders

**Fire Start:** August 16, 2016

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

**Cause:** Under investigation

**Cost to Date:** \$48 million

### **Fire Summary:**

The fire—tested today with low humidity, high temperatures, and strong, gusty winds—remained within established containment lines. It was active primarily in three areas: Baker Ridge, Panorama Heights, and Cane Creek. Firefighters reported open flame inside the perimeter of the fireline near Baker Ridge, which is located on the northeast side of the fire and near Cane Creek on the southeast.

Some firefighters remain on night shift. Because the drought-stressed, fire-weakened trees pose a significant threat which limits firefighter access on the fireline at night. Instead they will monitor and patrol the perimeter, ensuring that the fire does not escape containment lines.

Please drive with caution on Highway 155 and other roads recently opened to public travel. Drivers are encouraged to watch out for fire equipment and personnel on the road.

This will be the last evening update produced for the Cedar Fire. Starting tomorrow, a once-daily update will be released in the morning, and InciWeb will be updated throughout the day as needed.

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

Gusty winds over 30 mph on the ridgetops and in the river valley will diminish after midnight. Overnight lows will be range from low 40s to low 60s. The maximum relative humidity could be as high as 50 percent across much of the fire area. Fire behavior is expected to be minimal tonight.

### **National Forest Upper Kern River Campgrounds:**

Sequoia National Forest campgrounds along the Upper Kern River (Mountain 99) reopened at 6 p.m. today. All overnight camping had been closed previously for public safety due to the potential impacts from the Cedar Fire.

Both designated and dispersed campgrounds reopened to overnight use, north of Kernville. For those with reservations through the National Recreation Reservation Service, please contact California Land Management at (760) 376-1815.

A visitor information booth, located at Mt. 99 and Riverkern, will be open for the upcoming Labor Day weekend. Operating hours will be Friday through Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Kernville Ranger Station will be open Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will close Sunday and Monday for the Labor Day holiday. On Tuesday, the office will return to winter hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### **National Forest Closures:**

The Sequoia National Forest has issued an area closure for the area affected by the Cedar Fire (Order No. 0513-16-18). General boundaries of the closure: south of County Road Mountain 50, west of County Road Mountain 99, north of Sawmill Road, and east of the western Forest boundary. Forest Road 90 and Rancheria Road will remain closed, including Cedar Creek and Alder campground. The official closure and a map are posted at [inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4964](http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4964).

**Tulare County Evacuations and Road Status:**

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. Voluntary evacuations require proof of residency to enter. A mandatory evacuation means that residents should evacuate.

This morning the Tulare County Fire Department, Tulare County Sheriff, and Tulare County Emergency Operations Center downgraded the mandatory evacuation order to voluntary for the following communities: Poso Park, Panorama Heights, Balance Rock, McClenney Tract, Sugar Loaf Sawmill, Sugar Loaf Mountain Park, Sugar Loaf Village, and White River Summer Homes.

Spear Creek Summer Homes, where five cabins and several outbuilding were damaged by the fire, and Portuguese Meadow will remain under mandatory evacuation.

Residents under voluntary evacuation may choose to return to their properties at this time. Residents must show proof of residency to posted law enforcement prior to entering evacuated areas.

Conditions may change in the next 36 hours for communities downgraded, causing officials to re-issue mandatory status. Returning residents should show caution, personal safety and be aware of possible debris and smoke inhalation.

Voluntary evacuations remain in effect for: Posey, Idlewild, Manter Meadow, Pine Mountain Ranch Homes and Rainbow Ranch.

Current road closures remain in place; however residents are now permitted to enter evacuated areas.

Mountain 3 (M-3) "White River Rd." is now partially open at Jack Ranch Road east into the evacuated areas around Posey and Idlewild, for residents of Posey and Idlewild only.

Pine Flat Road is closed at Manter Meadow Road for southbound travel into the evacuated areas around Sugarloaf and Posey. Manter Meadow Road is now partially open, for residents only.

Dumpster locations will be available for residents to dispose of any spoiled food, trash or debris at Posey Fire Station and the Posey Post Office. Re-population efforts are underway with assistance from the American Red Cross located at the Posey Fire Station.

County health officials advise residents returning to communities impacted by the wildfires to take caution upon returning to their homes. For a full list of health precautions visit [www.tularecounty.ca.gov/emergencies](http://www.tularecounty.ca.gov/emergencies). For further information, please contact the Tulare County Emergency Operations Center at (559) 623-0200 between the hours of 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Kern County Evacuations and Road Status:**

The precautionary evacuations for the following Kernville area locations were lifted August 31, 2016, at 6 p.m.:

- On the east side of the Kern River: all residences and businesses Camp Erwin Owen north to the Kern-Tulare County line, including the Riverkern community
- On the west side of the Kern River: all residences north of the intersection of Diablo Road and Burlando Road, north to the Kern-Tulare County line.

There are no precautionary or recommended evacuations remaining in Kern County.

**Shelters:**

The following American Red Cross shelters can be opened with one hour's notice should the need arise:

- 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.