



U.S. Forest Service
Six Rivers National Forest
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www.fs.usda.gov/srnf

Fire Update



Orleans Complex Information (619)359-3415
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Orleans Complex Update – August 19, 2017

Incident/Complex	Acres	Percent Contained	Personnel	Crews	Engines	Heli	Mules	Structures Destroyed	Closures
Orleans Complex	7023	48	712	19	31	8	7	No	Yes

EUREKA, California, August 19, 2017 The Orleans Complex has 19 fires for a total of 7,023 acres. Thirteen fires have been contained. Six fires remain active; the Ukonom at 3,854 acres (52% contained); the Haypress at 1,560 (0% contained); the Burney at 1,273 (0% contained); the Forks at 243 acres (0% containment); the Frank at 27 acres (0% contained) and the Hooligan at 0.1 acres (0% contained). Active fires are being fought using a combination of containment and confinement strategies.

The most active fire is the Haypress, which has crossed a segment of Forest Road 13N42. Crews are working to keep it close to the road. The fire is holding at Haypress Creek, to the west, and at Wooley Creek, to the south; both are providing natural barriers. Significant smoke in the area is limiting visibility and poses additional challenges when inserting firefighters and assessing tactical options. Helicopter operations were hampered by smoke over the complex. A specialized Wildland Fire Module (WFM) comprised of 14 firefighters will be inserted into the area when visibility and conditions allow.

WFMs specialize in fire intelligence gathering such as perimeter mapping, line placement, identification of critical resource values, control points, management action points and safety zones; structure protection triage, planning, and implementation actions. They also provide a unique skill of high operational self-sufficiency. WFMs have the capability to operate in any location with little to no need for additional supplies or support from local fire management or Incident Management Team’s. WFMs carry backcountry camping equipment and can sustain themselves for up to seven days at a time. On this incident, however, they will be supported by a Mule Team consisting of 7 pack mules from the Shasta-Trinity National Forest that are staged at the Wooley Creek Trailhead. The Mule Team will pack in supply loads to support WFMs, which may include water, MREs (meal, ready to eat) drip-torches, and other fire-fighting and site preparation equipment. Additional information on mule teams can be found at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/article/5430/38429/>

Heavy smoke impacts will continue in the region due to several active fires in the Klamath, Six Rivers, and Rogue-Siskiyou National Forests. Most of the smoke has been produced by fires on the Eclipse Complex and Salmon August Complex. Smoke is densest near the fires and south of the fires. Affected communities are along the Klamath River drainage from Seiad Valley downstream to Weitchpec, the Hoopa Valley, Sawyers Bar, and the Scott Valley. Information on the health effects of smoke and what you can do to reduce your smoke exposure can be found here

<https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/wildfires/smoke.html>

For up-to-date Air Quality Advisory Information, the public can call toll-free 1-866-BURN-DAY (1-866-287-6329), or visit the NCUAQMD website www.ncuaqmd.org . For additional information regarding this PSA, please contact: North Coast Air Quality Management District 707 L Street, Eureka, CA 95501, (707) 443-3093.

Bow hunting season opens August 19th. Be aware that firefighting personnel may be conducting suppression activities in hunting areas. Know your target and what lies beyond. Parts of the Forest are closed.

The Ten Bear Trailhead leading to the Marble Mountain Wilderness is closed. Hikers wanting to access the wilderness should contact the Orleans District Office (530) 627-3291 or Orleans Complex Fire Information (619) 359-3415 for details on affected trails.

A Temporary Flight Restriction Area (TFR) has been set over the fire area to provide a safe environment for firefighting aviation operations, *"If you fly, we can't"*.

A portion of the Happy Camp Ranger District, in the vicinity of the Ukonom Fire, is closed to public entry for the duration of the fire due to the risks associated with active wildfire. The closure stretches from the bank of the Klamath River east to the Independence Creek Road and includes Ukonom Creek. Please review Klamath National Forest, Emergency Closure order number 17-05-797 for complete details at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/article/5433/37176/>.

Motorists traveling on State Highway 96 are reminded that there will be large amounts of fire traffic. Please drive with caution.

The Six Rivers National Forest remains under fire restrictions to provide for public and resource safety. Details about these restrictions can be found on the forest website at www.fs.usda.gov/srnf. For more information, smoke forecasts, maps and photographs please visit the Orleans Complex Inciweb site at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5430/>.

The forest and the many communities, located within and near its boundaries, are mutually dependent on one another. This is particularly true in wildfire prevention and suppression, which is a critical function of the Six Rivers' fire and aviation management program. Partnerships with tribes and local community organizations, such as fire safe councils, are crucial for preventing wildfires as well as protecting local communities through treatment of hazardous forest fuels.

Cooperators on the incident include representatives from the Karuk, Yurok and Hoopa Tribes, California Conservation Corps, Siskiyou County Sheriff Department, and Caltrans.

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