



Clearwater Complex Update



August 19, 2015 9:00 a.m.

Facts at a Glance

Size: 64,150 total acres	Date Started: 08/13/2015	Percent Containment: 25%
Personnel Assigned: 859 personnel	Equipment: 56 engines, 19 dozers, 27 water tenders	
Cause: Lightning	Aircraft Assigned: 4 helicopters	

Cooperating Agencies: Idaho Department of Lands, US Forest Service; Clearwater Potlatch Timber Protective Association; Lewis and Idaho counties; Nez Perce Tribe; City of Kamiah, Idaho Transportation Department, Idaho State Patrol, nine Rural Fire Departments

There will be a daily public information meeting held at The Life Center at 6:00 p.m. This will entail a brief fire update with the latest fire information. It will also give local community businesses, non-profits, and agency companies an opportunity to meet one-on-one to give information on their services.

Cooler temperatures occurred overnight with higher humidity's. Weather today however will be in the 90's with a relative humidity in the teens. Lite winds of six to twelve mph are expected out of the west, northwest. A cold front will be moving through the area on Friday bringing with it a chance of thunderstorms and high winds. Firefighters are taking advantage of the lower temperatures and lighter winds to reinforce fire lines before Friday. This is important for crews to try and stay ahead of wind driven fire activity.

Yesterday's Actions: Mop up and patrol operations continued in the southwest region of the fire around Lawyer's Canyon area. Firefighters worked along the perimeter of the fire strengthening firelines. Crews continued reinforcing lines behind houses in the Cottonwood Flats area and north of Caribel Road, while efforts in the southeast edge of the fire focused on reinforcing firelines behind houses east of Kamiah. The fire made runs into the Texas Creek canyon and Schmidt Creek area. Retardant was used to slow the fire's progress. Crews working the Fisher Fire improved and held existing firelines, mopped up hotspots (particularly in heavily-forested areas along Six Mile and Big Canyon area, and continued to patrol other containment lines. The Woodrat Fire is staffed with firefighters and equipment and line construction around the perimeter has begun.

Today's Actions: The objective of mopping up is to extinguish or remove burning and hazardous material from the perimeter inward a specific distance. Firefighters are working to mop up 100 feet in from the perimeter in the Lawyer's Canyon area. Structure protection groups continue to assess and respond to smoke and flame reports near residences in the area. Firefighters are also continuing to work on extinguishing the hay barn that is burning off of Hwy 162. Direct line construction which is the treatment of burning fuel, by wetting, smothering, or quenching the fire or by physically separating burning fuel from unburned fuel. This is being done from East Kamiah to Church Canyon to Kidder Ridge. Along Caribel Road (near Harrisburg Road) southeast towards Lolo Creek crews are constructing line and cold trailing. Cold trailing entails carefully inspecting and feeling with the hand for heat to detect any fire. The Navajo Interagency Hot Shots will be working in the Cottonwood Flats area building direct line. South of Greer and along Highway 11 firefighters will continue strengthening and holding the fire line. While working on mop up operations, crews will assess and respond to smoke and flare ups in the vicinity of structures.

Closures: U.S. Highway 12 and 11 remain open to all traffic but may periodically have a pilot car moving traffic through the fire area.

Additional Info: We have an information center at the Idaho Department of Lands in Kamiah. Fire information and updates can be found at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov> or call either (406)309-0371 or (208) 507-2621

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