



Rocky Mountain Blue Team

Maple Springs Fire

November 9, 2016, Morning Update

Fire Size:
Maple Springs Fire
3,919 acres
Old Roughy Fire
60 acres

Evacuations:
No evacuations have been listed at this time.

Containment:
9% contained

Location:
North of Lake Santeetlah

Started:
08/04/16. Cause of the fires to be determined.

Total personnel:
98 responders

Management:
Rocky Mountain
Type 2 Blue Team

Burn ban in effect:
www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/nfscn/alerts-notice/

Air Quality Reports:
www.xapps.ncdenr.org

Summary:

Today is a day of transition from the Nevada Type 3 Incident Management Team Four to the Rocky Mountain Incident Management Type 2 Blue Team which is working in unified command with the North Carolina Forest Service. Incoming Incident Commander Jay Esperance commended the Type 3 team and local resources for all their hard work. "The Type 3 Team did an exceptional job with initial attack. We hope to build upon their successes." Incidents are rated with a typing system tied to complexity. A single fire truck generally handles a Type 5 fire, while a Type 1 incident is extremely complex and often very large. The Maple Springs Fire is now a Type 2 incident.

The Maple Springs Fire started November 4, 2016 and has merged together with the Avey Branch Fire and is currently 3,919 acres. The fire located north of Santeetlah Lake is actively burning in hardwood litter, timber and brush. The fire remained active making wind driven uphill runs and backing downslope. Firefighters have constructed dozer lines and are developing structure protection plans for homes and other structures. The Blue Team has also assumed command of the Old Roughy Fire which is located southeast of the Maple Springs Fire. It is approximately 60 acres and started last evening around 7pm, cause is undetermined.

A cold front is passing over the fire today creating strong northwest winds gusting from 15-25mph and dropping temperatures into the 50's. Despite the increased humidity and cooler temperatures, gusts and changing wind directions are expected to increase fire activity and lift some smoke out of the area.

North Carolina is experiencing unprecedented fire behavior. The large number of wildfires in the region are stressing the availability of local resources and creating the need to bring in additional firefighters and incident management teams from around the country.

Commander Esperance identified incident objectives during morning briefing. The primary objective is to provide for the safety of firefighters and the public. Our second objective is to minimize the impact to private landowners while protecting private values at risk.

Smoke will continue to be present in the area for the duration of the incident.

Incident Information: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5090/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MapleSpringsFire/>

Fire Information Phone Line: 828-407-0653; media line 828-552-4730

