



JACKSON COUNTY  
Oregon



Rural/Metro  
Fire Department

# Big Windy Complex Fire Information Update

<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3570/>

<http://BigWindyORFire.blogspot.com>

<http://twitter.com/BigWindyORFire>

<http://www.facebook.com/BigWindyORFire>

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<http://www.flickr.com/photos/bigwindyorfire/>

## Wednesday, August 7, 2013 – 9:00 a.m. PDT Fire Status Update

Estimated Containment: 09/01/2013			
Fire	Acres	% Contained	Total Personnel
Big Windy Complex	12,631*	0%	1,311

\* The three fires of the Big Windy Complex grew together on August 6.

### Highlights for the Big Windy Complex:

- There is a red flag warning for thunderstorms with dry lightning throughout the day, particularly in the afternoon and early evening hours. Initial attack will be provided to local units as requested.
- Firefighters continue with the direct/indirect strategy and progress continues with containment lines, prepping for burnout, and conducting burnout operations. The priority is to complete the SE side first and then complete the W/NW side. This approach was originally estimated to require approximately one week to implement. Due to weather conditions, it is anticipated the burnout operations will take another 4-5 days to complete.
- The SE side remains a concern due to potential for the fire to push out of the Howard Creek area; As a contingency, operations personnel are utilizing the existing road system to the E.
- Last night, firing operations were completed along the Bear Camp Road and moved on to the Peavine Road before gusty winds associated with thunderstorms forced firing operations to end. Crews are working diligently to hold and secure lines where burnout operations have been completed.
- Operations, weather and fire behavior specialists from the Big Windy Complex are coordinating closely with their counterparts from the Rabbit Mt and Dad's Creek Fires to make firefighting operations as safe and efficient as possible.

### Big Windy Complex Operations Summary:

**Ground Operations:** Firefighters have made excellent progress with containment lines in all divisions, and continue looking for opportunities for secondary contingency lines on the east side of the fire and north of the Rogue River. On the west side, work is completed that allows better ingress/egress for firefighting equipment, and it is anticipated that good progress will be made in this area in the next few days. Good progress has been made on secondary contingency lines on the north side of the river. Specific locations to bring these lines down to the north side of the river have been determined.

At the Black Bar Lodge, crews will continue firing operations to create a blackened area around the lodge to help protect it. At Zane Grey's cabin, crews are ready to begin burnout operations. Firefighters remain north of the Rogue River in the Horseshoe Bend area to watch for spotting. Crews and heavy equipment operators continue to work with Rural Metro Fire Department to improve fire line and roads, scout for contingency control lines and prep for burnout operations for the community of Galice. Coordination with all agencies and partners continue.

**Air operations:** Air support is available to assist ground operations when weather and smoke conditions allow for better visibility. Three heavy helicopters, two light helicopters and one air attack plane are assigned today.

#### **FIRE FACTS:**

##### **Closures in Place:**

- The Bear Camp Road (BLM # 34-8-36 and Forest Service #23) is officially closed with closure orders and maps issued by the Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management/Grants Pass Interagency Office and the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest/Gold Beach Ranger District. See websites above for additional information. The National Guard is providing staffing at all road closure checkpoints.
- Burnt Ridge Road, Forest Service Road 2308, is closed from the junction with Forest Road 2300 to the junction with Forest Road 3300.
- Rogue River Trail from Grave Creek to Rogue River Ranch.
- The BLM portion of the Wild Section of the Rogue River is closed from Grave Creek to Mule Creek due to extreme fire conditions and public health and safety issues.

**Evacuations:** A level 2 (level 2 means be prepared to leave if asked by a law enforcement or fire official) evacuation notice is in place starting at the Marial Lodge and following the Rogue River east to Grave Creek, then north and west on the Marial Byway back to the Marial Lodge.

**Big Windy Complex:** Consists of the Big Windy (Josephine County), Calvert Peak and Jenny Fires (Curry County).. Located on Medford District Bureau of Land Management lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry, Started: July 26, 2013 at 3:00 a.m. **Cause:** Lightning **Location:** Approximately 8 miles NW of Galice.

**VALUES AT RISK:** Boaters and campers on the Rogue River, Wild and Scenic River below Grave Creek, economic considerations associated with recreation, Black Bar Lodge (18 structures), Zane Grey Historical Cabin, Marial Lodge, Rogue River Ranch, cultural resources, threatened & endangered species habitat, late successional reserves, fisheries and wildlife.

**WEATHER:** N-NW winds today gusts to 12 MPH, RH 30 - 36%, maximum temperatures 80-84 degrees. There is a red flag warning in effect for thunderstorms with dry lightning throughout the day. If thunderstorms occur, winds gusts up to 35 MPH may complicate firefighting efforts in some locations.

**FIRE BEHAVIOR:** Fire activity may be moderated by a slight increase in relative humidity and cooler temperatures. However, flame lengths will not be moderated enough to reduce the amount of single and group tree torching. Short crown runs are still possible. If wind gusts develop due to thunderstorms, expect rapid increases in flame lengths, rate of spread, and possible crown fire. If increased gusting winds occur, spotting distance may be as far as .7 miles.

**RESOURCES ASSIGNED:** 8 Type 1 hotshot crews, 28 Type 2 hand crews, 3 heavy helicopters, 2 light helicopters, 40 engines, 14 dozers and 17 water tenders, 3 camp crews and 123 National Guard members.

**SAFETY CONCERNS:** Steep and unforgiving terrain, mixing of fire and public traffic (particularly on one-lane roads), variable and unpredictable winds in the river corridor, ticks, bee stings, hazard trees, poison oak, poor air quality, aviation operations, extreme fire behavior, railroad crossings, black bears and cougars. Safety trends include bee stings, and knee and ankle injuries.

**COOPERATING AGENCIES & PARTNERS:** Oregon Department of Forestry, Medford District Bureau of Land Management, Josephine County, Curry County, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Jackson County, Rural Metro Fire Department.