

BIG WINDY COMPLEX FIRE INFORMATION 541-476-1252



Oregon Department of Forestry



Bureau of Land Management
Medford District



USDA Forest Service
Rogue River–Siskiyou NF



Ed Lewis
Incident Commander
IMT PNW Team 3

Fire Update – 08/22/2013 9:00 a.m. PDT

Yesterday's Fire Operations: It was a good day yesterday and the Big Windy Complex is now 30 percent contained. There was active fire spread with torching and short crown runs. No containment lines were breached and progress was made with burnout operations on the west flank adjacent to containment lines. An inversion "capped" the air mass over the fire for most of the day, prevented the fire from venting, and permeated the local area with smoke. The challenging eastern flank of the fire above Howard Creek, and just south of the Rogue River, was held with helicopter bucket drops and the construction of an additional fire line to hold it in check.

Today's Fire Operations: Fire behavior is expected to be active today. Crews will continue to hold and secure the east and southeast flanks. The burnout will continue along the west flank in an effort to remove fuel from the approaching fire. Smoke over the fire is expected to hamper air operations for most of the day likely eliminating aerial ignition options. If needed, firefighters will assist local forces in initial attack on any new fires from potential thunderstorms in the area. A structure group is evaluating access and assessing protection needs in the Galice area.

Weather: A Red Flag warning for abundant lightning and dry fuels will be in effect until later this evening. If an isolated thunderstorm approaches the area winds could become erratic and gust to 40 mph or higher.

Evacuations: A Level 2 evacuation is in place north of the Rogue River and south of the Marial Byway. Residents should be prepared to leave if asked. A Level 1 evacuation is in effect in the Galice area and west where hazards from the approaching fire may be severe. Residents should take precautionary measures to protect persons with special needs, pets, livestock, and mobile property.

Closures:

- Grave Creek to Marial Back Country Byway, which includes Mt. Reuben Road (34-8-1 Road), 32-8-31 Road, a portion of the 32-8-9.2 Road, and the Marial Access Road (32-9-14.2).
- Bear Camp Road (BLM # 34-8-36 and Forest Service #23) is officially closed. 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.

Quick Facts Incident Summary	
Location:	NW of Galice, OR
Approximate Size:	23,708
Fire Containment:	30%
Start Date:	July 26, 2013
Cause:	Lightning
Incident Commander:	Ed Lewis
Resources on the Fire:	Crews: 24 Helicopters: 67 Engines: 56 Dozers: 6 Water Tenders: 13
Total Personnel:	976
Jurisdiction:	Oregon Dept of Forestry Bureau of Land Management

FOR ADDITIONAL AND UPDATED FIRE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:
www.inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3570 or follow www.twitter.com/BigWindyORFire