



Deschutes National Forest (www.fs.usda.gov/centraloregon)

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Pole Creek Fire Update

Monday October 8, 2012 (08:00)

Sisters, OR – On Tuesday morning at 07:00, a Type IV Incident Management Team (IMT) will assume command of the Pole Creek Fire. Today, members of that team will shadow their counterparts and learn how the fire has been managed since September 29, when the Type III IMT took over management responsibilities from a Type II IMT. The new Incident Commander (IC) and the Operations Section Chief from the Type III IMT, flew over the fire today and discussed fire suppression strategies and tactics. The new IC gained a great understanding on the status of the fire and what work remains.

A special flight was conducted last night, which took infra-red pictures showing hot spots within the fire perimeter. A slight increase in burned acreage was discovered along the western edge of the fire in the Three Sisters Wilderness. The fire is burning towards natural barriers of rock. As the mop-up work continues along the fire perimeter and more of the unburned islands of fuel (vegetation) are either burned or left intact, less smoke is visible each day. The weather will remain the same for the next few days as a high pressure ridge remains over the fire area. Light winds are predicted today with very dry conditions. The relative humidity is expected to be 15 - 17%.

Area Closure: An area around the fire remains closed to public access during fire suppression activities. The closure area includes: Forest Road 16 (Three Creek Lake), Forest Road 15 (Pole Creek Road), and a portion of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCNST). A reroute is in place for that portion of the PCNST that is closed. Please refer to the website: www.inciweb.org/incident/3244, for further fire and closure information which includes maps and photos.

Residents are reminded that we are still in fire season and this fire is not fully contained. Due to hunters in the forest and continued dry conditions, there is a concern for new fire starts. If you are traveling in the forest, be aware of current fire restrictions and stay alert.

Unless conditions change, this will be the last daily fire update.

The size of the fire is 26,795 acres (an increase of 34 acres from yesterday) and is 85% contained. Full containment is expected by 10/15. The cause of the fire is under investigation. No injuries were reported yesterday and no structures have been reported damaged or lost since the beginning of the fire on 09/09/2012.

Resources: 218 people assigned to the fire. Type I hand crews: 1, Type II hand crews: 3, Engines: 5, Water Tenders: 4, Camp Crews: 1, Helicopters: 1 (medium lift), Overhead: 47.