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## **RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE LAUNCH FIRE HAVE BEEN DELEGATED TO THE OREGON INTERAGENCY INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM 2**

**Klamath Falls, Oregon** – On Thursday morning, a federal Type II Incident Management Team (Oregon Interagency Incident Management Team 2), will begin managing suppression operations on the Launch Fire in the Sky Lakes Wilderness on the Fremont-Winema National Forest. This team is comprised of mostly southern Oregon fire management agencies.

Forest fire officials ordered the Type II team because of the complexity and location of the fire. The fire is burning in an area with heavy fuels and abundance of snags. Today, 100 firefighters worked to construct containment lines around the main body of the fire and several nearby spot fires. Firefighters were able to keep the Launch Fire to less than 100 acres.

Forest Service law enforcement officers have investigated where the fire originated and determined it was human-caused. They have gathered evidence at the site, interviewed witnesses and are now following up on several leads.

Fire managers are concerned about the number of human-caused fires that have occurred this summer in South Central Oregon and urge the public to be careful with any activities that can ignite wildland fires.

The following special restrictions and prohibitions remain in effect on the following roads, trails and specific areas of the Fremont-Winema National Forest's Klamath Ranger District:

- Forest Road 3661 from its intersection with Forest Road 3661-360 to Four Mile Lake Campground.
- Forest Trail 993 (Twin Ponds Trail,) from its intersection with the Pacific Crest Trail to its intersection with Forest Road 3661 at Four Mile Lake Campground.
- Forest Trail 3759 (Badger Lake Trail,) from its intersection with Forest Road 3661-560 to its intersection with south boundary of the Sky Lakes Wilderness Area.

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- Forest Trail 3712 (Lost Lake Trail,) from its intersection with the Sky Creek Wilderness Area boundary to its intersection with the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. The PCT remains open.
- Fourmile Lake Campground is also closed.

In addition, the Great Meadows Sno-Park has been closed for public safety as it is being used as a helibase for incident helicopters.

For additional information on the Launch Fire visit:

<http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4018/>

To report a wildland fire, call the Lakeview Interagency Fire Center at 541-947-6315 or by calling 911.

*For breaking news during the South Central Oregon's fire season, please visit **[facebook.com/scofmpfireinfo](https://www.facebook.com/scofmpfireinfo)** or **[twitter.com/scofmpfireinfo](https://twitter.com/scofmpfireinfo)***

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