



Washington IMT 2 Incident Commander – Bruce Holloway
ODF Incident Commander – Ross Holloway

36 Pit Fire Update
September 20, 2014 – 9:00 AM

FIRE INFORMATION WEBSITE: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4106/>

FIRE FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/mthoodnf?ref=hl>

INFO PHONE: 360-280-4352 or 503-630-1711

Office Hours: 8:00 am -8:00 pm

EMAIL: 36pitfire@gmail.com

A Public Meeting will be held tonight at 7:00 pm at the Estacada First Baptist Church, 29101 SE Eagle Creek Road. Members of the Incident Management Team and other local officials will be present to provide information and answer questions related to the 36 Pit Fire.

Today, weather conditions are predicted to change and are expected to be the first real test of the containment lines. As the weather warms, increased fire behavior is expected. East winds are expected to increase and be steady at 10-15 mph with gusts to 25 mph. The air will also be drier and hotter with relative humidities at 26-33 percent. Temperatures will increase to the mid-80s. A Haines Index of 5 is also forecast and means that the atmosphere will be drier and more unstable promoting more active fire behavior.

For the last several days while cooler and more humid conditions have dominated the fire area, firefighters have aggressively built fire lines and mopped up hot spots in anticipation of today's weather change. **Priorities today are to halt progression of the fire to the north and west.** Higher winds and temperatures along with drier conditions may cause interior islands of unburned vegetation and heavy surface fuels to burn more actively. Single tree and group tree torching may also occur. One result of the increased fire activity would be increased smoke and development of smoke columns.

Firefighters are doing everything they can to control fire lines today. Yesterday and last night, firefighters continued to work hard to mop up hot spots at the northwest corner and northern perimeter of the fire. These portions of the fire are located closest to homes and other structures. Firefighters also completed a controlled burn out operation yesterday afternoon at the southern flank and southeast side of the fire to reinforce fire lines causing some smoke columns to be visible.

The fire is now estimated to be 4320 acres in size and is now 40 percent contained. The fire has not moved appreciably in any direction since its initial spread last Sunday and Monday. The 78 acre spot fire located to the northwest of the main fire is now completely mopped with no hot spots or smoke visible yesterday. Hazards to crews include: extremely steep terrain on slopes in excess of 60 degrees presenting crews with footing difficulties; rolling debris; and fire weakened trees. Heavy deep fuels also present challenges to contain the fire.

CLACKAMAS COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE EVACUATION INFORMATION:

On Wednesday, September 17 at 11 a.m., several of the evacuation orders were evaluated and reduced from a Level 3 to a Level 2. The Level 2 evacuation order allows residents to return home, but must be prepared to leave if the situation changes.

LEVEL 2: Silver Fox RV Park, SE Fall Creek Rd., Michaels Rd., Tumala Mountain Rd. east of Divers Rd. in Estacada.

LEVEL 1: Hillockburn Rd. east of South Habelt Rd.

****The Lazy Bend Camp and Work Center is evacuated and closed.**

****Promontory Park is closed. The La Dee OHV area is closed.**

SHELTERS: The Red Cross shelter in Estacada is now also closed.

ROAD CLOSURES: ODOT has opened Highway 224 to residents and workers only with valid identification.

The public is urged to be aware of increased fire related traffic on local roads and to drive defensively. For information related to evacuations, please go to: <http://www.clackamas.us> or call 503-655-8224.

Information related to smoke can be found at: www.oregonsmoke.blogspot.com For more information, please use the contact information listed above.

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