

Fire Update

Friday, August 21, 2015, PM

Collier Butte Fire – Gold Beach, Oregon

Location: Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, 18 miles east of Gold Beach

Incident Commander: Doug Johnson

Information Center: 541-247-4447

Inciweb: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4461>

Email: collierbuttefire@gmail.com

Facebook: [U.S. Forest Service-Rogue River - Siskiyou National Forest](#)

Oregon Smoke Information: <http://oregonsmoke.blogspot.com/>



The Curry County Fairgrounds in Gold Beach will host the Fair August 27-30 as planned. The Collier Butte Fire incident command post will be moving to the Gold Beach High School Saturday to make room for the Fair set-up.

Current Situation:

| | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------|----------|
| 9,200 acres | 30% Containment | 317 Personnel | 5 Crews | 5 Dozers |
| 2 Helicopters | 8 Water Tenders | 11 Engines | | |

Gusty and unfavorable winds over the fire area did not allow for planned burnout operations. Aerial resources were utilized to apply retardant drops to pretreat fuels along the south containment line. The previous day's burnout backed downhill toward the main fire. Firefighters mopped up burning and smoldering vegetation along the fire edge adding depth to established lines. The contingency line north from Forest Road 3318 to the Illinois River is nearing completion. The alternate line south along Forest Road 1376 to the Chetco River has been completed. The fire is moving toward the east into remote, inaccessible land in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness, yet remains west of the Illinois River. Firefighters are using water drops there to strategically check fire spread to the northeast.

Nationally, the wildfire situation remains at a critical level. All available firefighting resources are being called upon to assist, resulting in a shortage of fire crews, helicopters and support personnel. Firefighters are being reassigned to more-critical incidents to protect lives, homes and infrastructure. On the Collier Butte Fire, managers are strategically positioning the limited available resources to focus on holding and securing containment lines, and coordinating aircraft use with other fires in southwest Oregon.

Rugged, steep terrain and an abundance of snags present challenges to firefighter safety. Due to a shortage of firefighting resources and limited wilderness access, management of this wildfire is likely to continue for an extended period. Smoke from the fire may be visible at the times throughout the remainder of the fire season.

Businesses along the south coast and Rogue River remain open and welcome visitors. Residents and visitors to Gold Beach, Brookings and nearby communities are encouraged to drive carefully as firefighter traffic has increased in the area. The public is encouraged to use caution outdoors, as extreme drought conditions persist. Fuels are receptive to any type of spark or flame. For information on closures on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, please see the Facebook page or the Inciweb page listed above.

