



Middle Fork Complex and Knoll Fire Quick Facts

Cause: Lightning

Location: Willamette National Forest

Middle Fork Complex: Nine miles N of Oakridge, OR

Knoll: Seven Miles NE of McKenzie Bridge, OR

Incident Commander: Randy Johnson,
Pacific Northwest Team 3

Approx. Fire Size (acres):

Gales & Elephant Rock: 4,191

Knoll: 59

Kwis: 489

Ninemile: 323

Resources:

Crews: 17

Engines: 18

Heavy Equipment: 13

Helicopters: 6

Water tenders: 11

Total Personnel: 641

Middle Fork Complex Fire Update – Monday, August 9, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.

Community Fire Briefing at Greenwaters Park, 48362 Highway 58, in Oakridge - Monday, August 9 at 6:30 pm.

Middle Fork Complex: Yesterday firefighters continued reinforcing fire line and working to re-establish containment on a spot fire in the Kwis Fire. Crews and heavy equipment also continued preparing existing road systems to be used as containment line for the Ninemile, Gales, and Elephant Rock Fires. Resources assigned to these fires also assisted with initial attack of a new fire that started west of Oakridge near the Hardesty Trailhead.

Containing the Kwis Fire remains a priority for firefighters because of its proximity to Oakridge. While crews and air resources will be continuing efforts to re-establish and secure containment line around the Kwis fire, they are also evaluating additional options for containment lines south of the fire. On the Gales and Ninemile Fires, crews and heavy equipment are establishing containment lines that will reduce potential for spread of these fires towards communities. Each of the fires are burning in timber in areas of steep and rugged terrain and as the fires burn through the dry heavy fuels, fire intensity will periodically increase causing development of visible smoke columns.

Knoll Fire: Pacific Northwest Team 3 took command of this fire yesterday. It is located off Highway 126 north/northeast of McKenzie Bridge. Firefighters supported by aerial resources are utilizing a combination of constructed line, existing roads, and natural features to limit fire spread. Today, as conditions allow, firefighters will be reinforcing containment lines by burning out to consume vegetation between the line and active fire. There are numerous hazards that pose a danger to public safety in the vicinity of this fire including active fire in the McKenzie River bottom and falling trees, making river travel unsafe through the fire area. Forest visitors should also avoid Olallie Campground, Deer Creek Hot Springs, and dispersed campsites near the springs.

Weather and Smoke: Today warmer and drier conditions are expected, which will likely result in increased fire activity. Expect smoke columns from these fires to be visible from surrounding areas especially in the afternoons. For current air quality information visit oakridgeair.org/smoke or the Oregon Smoke Blog <https://oregonsmoke.blogspot.com/>.

Evacuations: Effective August 8, 2021, Oakridge Fire approved issuing a **Level 1 (BE READY)** evacuation notice due to the nearby Kwis Fire for the following areas: High Prairie, Fish Hatchery, Oakridge north of Roberts Road, and Oakridge east of Salmon Creek. A **Level 3 (GO NOW)** evacuation notice remains in effect for all homes, campgrounds and dispersed recreation along Forest Service Road 18 (Big Fall Creek Road) east of the intersection with Forest Service Road 1821, including Puma Campground and Bedrock Campground. A map of these evacuation areas is available at www.LaneCountyOR.gov/MiddleForkComplex.

Closures: Some National Forest System lands near the Middle Fork Complex fires are temporarily closed to provide for public safety. Please be sure to check current conditions before planning your trip to the Willamette National Forest. For more information visit www.fs.usda.gov/willamette.

ADDITIONAL FIRE INFORMATION:

Fire Information: (541) 625-0849 **Facebook:** @MiddleForkComplex @KnollFire

Inciweb: Middle Fork Complex: inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7745/ Knoll Fire: inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7790/