



## Middle Fork Complex and Knoll Fire Quick Facts

**Cause:** Lightning

**Location:** Willamette National Forest

*Middle Fork Complex:* Three Miles E of Oakridge, OR

*Knoll:* Seven Miles NE of McKenzie Bridge, OR

**Incident Commanders:** Randy Johnson,  
Pacific Northwest Team 3; Ian Yocum, Oregon State  
Fire Marshal's Office

**Approx. Fire Size (acres):**

*Gales and Elephant Rock:* 5,020

*Knoll:* 513

*Kwis:* 786

*Ninemile:* 359

**Resources:**

*Crews:* 19

*Engines:* 35

*Heavy Equipment:* 11

*Helicopters:* 6

*Water tenders:* 14

*Total Personnel:* 795

## Middle Fork Complex & Knoll Fire Update – Wednesday, August 11, 2021 –

**Kwis Fire:** Fire growth is generally at the southern and western perimeter in the steep slopes of the Salmon Creek drainage. Firefighters are working to secure the line directly at the fire's edge, using strategic burnout to add depth and strengthen fire lines while also using dozers and hand crews to establish indirect fire lines to the southwest of the fire. Containment lines on most of the western, northern, and eastern side are identified or in place. Last night crews installed hose lines to assist with containment efforts and night operations for the Kwis Fire are ongoing. Smoke and poor visibility continue to limit the use of aircraft until later in the day.

The Middle Fork Complex has been declared a conflagration. The Oregon State Fire Marshal Red Incident Management Team arrived on 8/10/21 and established Unified Command with PNW Team 3. Task Forces from Linn County, Marion County, Clackamas County and Lane County began surveying homes in the City of Oakridge and homes in the Level 2 Evacuation area. Today, structure crews will begin hands on prepping of homes using the defensible space model and continue surveying neighborhoods. Home owners may find a green "Firefighter Risk Assessment Placard" left at their home. The placards display critical information to responding first responders, such as: fire engine access, propane on the property and whether your home has been assessed by firefighters. Please leave all green placards in place.

**Knoll Fire:** Crews are using a combination of constructed line, existing roads, and natural features such as Deer Creek to contain the fire. Strategic firing operations to reinforce the fire line are progressing well and will continue today if conditions allow. Recreation sites near McKenzie Bridge are closed and the Oregon State Marine Board has temporarily closed the McKenzie River to recreational boating from Trail Bridge Reservoir Dam (River Mile 81.9) downstream to the Frissel Boat Ramp (River Mile 76.1).

**Gales and Ninemile Fires:** Yesterday, crews successfully used heavy equipment to establish containment line and secure a control point at the northwest edge of the fire to limit fire spread to the west and north. Burn-out operations to consume vegetation between the line and the active fire are being used strategically to extend the fire line to the south and reduce potential for the Gales Fire to spread to the west.

**Weather and Smoke:** Warmer, drier and more unstable conditions are expected through the week, resulting in increased fire activity and potential for vertical plumes of smoke. There is a slight chance of dry thunderstorms on Friday, including possible lightning. For current air quality information, visit [oakridgeair.org/smoke](http://oakridgeair.org/smoke) or the Oregon Smoke Blog <https://oregonsmoke.blogspot.com/>.

**Evacuations:** Level 1, 2 and 3 evacuation notices have been issued by Lane County. For current evacuation information and an interactive map of evacuation areas, visit: [www.lanecounty.org](http://www.lanecounty.org).

**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](http://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/](http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7745/) *Knoll Fire:* [inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7790/](http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7790/)