



## Middle Fork Complex and Knoll Fire Quick Facts

**Cause:** Lightning

**Location:** Willamette National Forest

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

*Knoll Fire:* 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:* 6,850

*Knoll:* 540

*Kwis:* 1,083

*Ninemile:* 389

**Resources:**

*Crews:* 18

*Engines:* 39

*Heavy Equipment:* 13

*Helicopters:* 6

*Water tenders:* 15

*Total Personnel:* 801

### **Middle Fork Complex & Knoll Fire Update – Thursday, August 12, 2021 – 9:00 am**

**Knoll Fire and Middle Fork Complex Virtual Community Briefing via Facebook Live**

**Today at 6:30 pm at [www.facebook.com/KnollFire](https://www.facebook.com/KnollFire)**

Questions can be emailed in advance to [2021.middlefork@firenet.gov](mailto:2021.middlefork@firenet.gov), or asked in the comments during the meeting.

The incident command post for Knoll Fire and the Middle Fork Complex is repositioning to the Eugene area to better provide support to firefighters on the fires under their command. The firefighters will still be based at camps closer to the fires where they are working. Crews will continue to be provided with the services they need to be successful like food, showers, and supplies.

**Kwis Fire:** Yesterday and last night, crews and equipment prepared fire line along Forest Road 5871 south of the fire and implemented strategic burnout operations to strengthen that containment line. Poor visibility due to smoke prevented aircraft from flying. Today fire personnel and dozers will continue to construct and improve indirect containment line between the southern fire edge and the community of Oakridge. Firefighters will patrol and secure existing fire lines and work to bolster containment line west of the fire north of Hwy 58 and south of Hwy 24.

To date, Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Task Force firefighters have inspected approximately 327 homes in the City of Oakridge and homes in the Level 2 Evacuation area. Today, crews will finish assessing homes and begin preparing structures using the Defensible Space Model: the creation of buffers through fuel removal between a structure and wildland space. Green Firefighter Risk Assessment Placards will continue to be displayed at all triaged homes. We appreciate homeowners leaving placards in place to assist in the prepping of homes and in the event of emergency response. OSFM will also look for opportunities to support wildland and community partners.

**Knoll Fire:** Firefighters have completed strategic firing operations to reinforce the containment line which is comprised of constructed fire line, existing roads, and natural features. Today they will remain vigilant, watching for spots from internal burning, working to hold the fire west of Highway 126 and mopping up, by extinguishing burning material near the containment lines.

**Gales and Ninemile Fires:** On the Gales Fire, work continues to establish an anchor point on the northwestern portion of the fire, preparing indirect fire line to limit fire spread to the west and north. Additional resources have been assigned to the Ninemile fire and firefighters will re-engage; assessing and implementing indirect containment strategies.

**Weather and Smoke:** A Red Flag Warning is in effect for “very unstable conditions” and low humidity. Warmer, drier and more unstable conditions are expected today, 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).

The Oregon State Marine Board has issued a temporary closure on a portion of 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)). For more information visit: <https://www.flashalert.net/id/OSMB>.

**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/)