

Myrtle Fire Update



Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team- Bill Hahnenberg, Incident Commander
Fire Information: (605) 939-0354
Email: myrtlefireinfo@gmail.com
Online: <http://inciweb.org/incident/3028/>
Photos: http://photobucket.com/myrtlefire_public
Hours of operation: 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Date: July 22, 2012

Time: 9:00 p.m.

Current Situation: Containment of the Myrtle Fire was increased to 40% this evening. Firefighters continued to improve and mop up fire line on the northern perimeter of the fire. Crews were successful in conducting firing operations to secure the southeastern portion of the fire today. On the western portion of the fire, firefighters continued to improve and mop up fire line. As fire crews have been able to assess areas within the fire perimeter, it was discovered that several structures on the historic Williams Ranch were burned during the Myrtle Fire. A **media tour of the Williams Ranch** will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday. Information officers will also be available for **media tours** at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. All media tours will meet at the staging area in Pringle.

Officials from the Incident Management Team, Hell Canyon Ranger District, Custer County Sheriff's Office, and Pringle Fire Department addressed the community tonight during a public meeting at the community building in Pringle.

For information on other fires in the Black Hills area, please contact Great Plains Fire Information at (605) 923-8868 or greatplainsfireinfo@gmail.com.

Weather: Scattered thunderstorms are anticipated to continue tomorrow and persist through the next several days. Temperatures will be in the 90's tomorrow with a minimum relative humidity of 30% and increasing in the afternoon with the development of the expected thunderstorms. Winds will be light and variable during the early part of the day and then transition to an east wind in the afternoon.

Evacuation: Evacuations for all areas other than Argyle Road and east of Highway 89 have been lifted according to Custer and Fall River County officials. Residents living along Highway 385 in the fire area were allowed to return to their homes tonight. Access is limited to residents of the area only and those residents are being guided by a pilot vehicle.

The Red Cross has closed the evacuation shelter at the Mueller Center in Hot Springs. At this time, the shelter at Custer Middle School is staffed for information only.

Closures: The Black Hills National Forest has issued a Temporary Area Closure for the Myrtle Fire area. Wind Cave National Park remains closed until further notice. Highway 385 is now open to residents only. Residents will be guided by a pilot vehicle to access the area. Fire managers and cooperating agencies will meet on Monday to evaluate the possibility of opening Highway 385 to the general public.

Public Safety: Smoke may impact residents and visitors in the area of the fire. Please use caution when driving in areas of smoke.

Special Prevention Message: Stage II Fire & Smoking Restrictions are in place on the Black Hills National Forest. Fireworks are always prohibited on public lands. For complete information on Stage II Fire & Smoking Restrictions, please visit http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5378450.pdf.

Fire Statistics

Location: 1 mile east of Pringle, SD

Size: 10,080 acres

Cause: Under Investigation

Cost: \$2,100,000

Start Date: July 19, 2012

Percent Contained: 40

Total Personnel: 621

Resources on Scene: 7 Type 1 hand crews, 6 Type 2 hand crews, 56 engines, 3 dozers, 13 water tenders, 7 Type 1 helicopters, 1 Type 2 helicopter, 3 Type 3 helicopters, fixed wing support and overhead personnel

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