

DAILY UPDATE: Longhorn Complex Fire

July 25, 2012, 9:00 a.m.

Contact: Jeni Lawver, Public Information Officer
Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team C
www.inciweb.org

Phone Numbers: 605-747-2046 or 605-747-2707

Information Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Hard Work and Weather Improve Conditions on the Longhorn Complex

St. Francis, SD- The Longhorn Complex is currently 44,530 acres and 70% contained. The Longhorn Complex includes the Iron Shell Fire (39,780 acres), the South Crazy Horse Fire (3,100 acres), and the Longhorn Fire (1,650 acres). The Longhorn fire is now 100% contained and will be turned back to the local agency to monitor and patrol as necessary. Last night, firefighting efforts focused on burnout operations on the South Crazy Horse fire and patrol of the existing containment lines on all fires within the Longhorn Complex.

Today's priority is to secure fire line on the South Crazy Horse fire. Aerial resources will assist ground crews as they continue to secure fire line on the South Crazy Horse fire. Firefighters will also continue to mop-up and patrol all of the remaining fire perimeter. Fire crews will also be available to assist with initial attack of any new fire starts in the area.

Fire manager's primary concern is always firefighter and public safety. Incident Commander, Joe Lowe shared with firefighters this morning that, "Mother Nature may be dealing us a good day." Today's weather forecast includes a 40% chance of afternoon thunderstorms. Temperatures are expected to be 85-90 degrees during the day with a relative humidity of 35-40%. Winds will be out of the NW at 10-20 mph, but could become gusty and variable in front of developing thunderstorm activity.

Based on the success of the firefighting efforts and improving weather conditions, representatives from the Incident Management Team, Emergency Management officials and the Rosebud Agency will meet today at 11:00 a.m. to discuss the possibility of allowing evacuated residences back into the Spring Creek community.

Spring Creek Community is still under an evacuation notice. The Red Cross Evacuation Center in St. Francis remains open. To date, no residential structures have been lost. Four outbuildings have burned.

BIA 30 is closed into the Spring Creek Community at BIA 5. Also, BIA 5 is closed into the Spring Creek Community at BIA 501.

Fire information is available by calling 605-747-2046 or 605-747-2707. The public is encouraged to call between the hours of 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

#####