

News Release

June 20, 2012 8:00 a.m. (MST)

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Weather Provides Needed Break to Assist Firefighters

Firefighters working on the Russell's Camp Fire were able to continue making progress on the fire despite gusting winds on Tuesday. Crews continued to evaluate areas around the fire perimeter where resources on hand would be most efficient. A Red Flag Warning was in place for most of the day, and continues to challenge the efforts of firefighters. Smoke could still be seen around the surrounding communities and low lying areas earlier in the morning. One firefighter was transported from the incident with a heat related illness.

Cooler weather is expected on Wednesday with a warming trend into the weekend. Hot, dry and gusty winds are expected again later in the week.

Today's activities will include the following:

- Division A (south/east): Crews will continue working on the east side of the fire to secure lines, and will go direct with the fire in areas where they can work safely. The structure group, approximately 10 engines, will be working in and around structures on the east and southeast side of the fire to mitigate hazards around homes.
- Division D (west): Two crews and engine and helicopter squad will continue to make progress where terrain and fire activity allow.
- Division F (northwest): One crew and one squad will continue to scout this area for locations where the most progress can be made. Crews will continue to monitor fire activity in this area.
- Division L (northeast) is being monitored.
- Air Operations: Multiple aircraft will be working around the fire as weather permits. Three large (Type 1), one medium (Type 2) and two light (Type 3) helicopters are assisting with operations. Two Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATs) have been available for retardant drops where needed. Although gusty winds were experienced on the fire Wednesday they did not impact aviation operations.
- Road Closure: Road blocks will be in place on the road near the Converse County and Albany County line. County Road #62 (Little Medicine Road) and County Road#24 (Cold Springs Road) will be blocked off to non-residents. Motorists are asked to find alternate travel routes.

Fire stats at a glance:

Start Date: June 17th, 2012

Cause: Under investigation

Acreage: 2,500

Personnel: 295

Crews: 6

Cooperating Agencies: Converse County, USFS,
State of Wyoming

Aviation :(3) Type 1, (1) Type 2 & (2) Type 3
Helicopters

Engines: 11

Injuries: 1 (minor heat related)

Structures destroyed: 0

Structures/outbuildings threatened: 40

Cost to date: \$225,000

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Updates/Photos posted at:

Websites: www.INCIWEB.org

Twitter: @RMIMT2_TeamB or @MBRNFsTBNG