

News Release

June 22, 2012 7:00 a.m. (MST)

Contact: Laura McConnell, PIO

www.INCIWEB.ORG

Information office 307-212-4844*

*Staffed 8:00 a.m. – 8 p.m.



***** PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULED *****

Friday, June 22nd beginning at 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Location: Converse County Courthouse Community Room

Fire managers and Incident Commander Todd Pechota

will give operational updates and answer questions in regards to the fire.

Fire Crews Brace for Hot Dry Gusty Winds

“Today is a day of potential. Hope is not a plan. Be prepared and stay alert as to the changing conditions today. Our number one goal is safety, please make sure that everyone comes ‘home’ tonight” stated Incident Commander Todd Pechota this morning as he addressed fire crews at briefing.

On Thursday, a large smoke column was produced from burning that took place on the Russell’s Camp Fire on Thursday. Approximately 100 acres burned on the north end. Some interior burning did take place adding to the visible smoke. Crews were able to burn out small pockets of fuel on the south end to reinforce containment lines. Firefighters worked on lines in all areas of the fire in anticipation of the dry, hot, windy weather expected this weekend. The fire remains in full suppression strategy.

The weather outlook for Friday and Saturday shows hotter weather with dry winds gusting up to 40 miles per hour near the fire area. Firefighters have contingency plans in place to ensure the safety of all crews on the line. Safety zones and contingency lines have been constructed in the event that the expected weather negatively impacts fire behavior. A Red Flag Warning is in effect from 10:00 a.m. on Friday through 9:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Friday’s activities will include the following:

- Division A (south/east): Crews will continue securing hand line on the south east side of the fire.
- Division D (west): Dozer line has been constructed. Crews will continue scouting areas of the fire.
- Division F (northwest): Dozers will continue to construct contingency line approximately one mile north of the fire. Line construction in this area is going well.
- Division L (northeast) Firefighters will improve and prepare dozer lines. A crew will be in place on the north end scouting available options in the case that the fire progresses to the north.
- Air Operations: Aircraft will be available for use as weather and winds permit. Aviation resources are not able to operation in winds that exceed 30 knots approximately 35 miles per hour.
- Road Closures:
 - 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.
 - Near the bottom of Cold Springs Road and a portion of the Box Elder Road near Breakneck Hill.
- Evacuations:

- There is no serious threat to the Fetterman Road. Residents living along this area can return to their homes/cabins. If conditions were to change voluntary evacuations will be reinstated.
- Volunteer evacuations are still in place for homes/cabins along Meadow Creek Road, and Cold Springs Road south of Meadow Creek Road.

Fire stats at a glance:

Start Date: June 17th, 2012

Containment: 10%

Cause: Under investigation/Possible Lightning

Acreage: 2,841

Personnel: 490

Crews: 7 **Cooperating Agencies:** Converse County, USFS, State of Wyoming

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

Engines: 20

Injuries: 2 (minor heat related, knee injury)

Structures destroyed: 0

Structures/outbuildings threatened: 20

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Updates/Photos posted at:

Websites: www.INCIWEB.org;

Twitter: @RMIMT2_TeamB

@MBRNFsTBNG

@WyoStForestry