

**NEWS RELEASE: Sheep Herder Hill Complex Fire
Wednesday, September 12, 2012, 8 a.m.**



Contact: Susan Ford, Public Information Officer
Phone: (303)-886-2171
Media Line: (307) 215-3099
(Active 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.)

Website: www.InciWeb.org
Twitter: @RMIMT2_TeamB

PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULED
Wednesday, September 12 beginning at 5:00 p.m.
Location: Casper City Hall, City Council Chambers
200 North David
Fire managers and Incident Commander Todd Pechota
will give operational updates and answer questions in regards to the fire.

Progress Made on Shepherder Hill Complex Fire

Casper, WY –Lower temperatures and higher humidity yesterday allowed firefighters to make excellent progress on the Shepherder Hill Complex Fire. Firefighters worked on constructing direct fire line, especially in the northwest area of the fire near the concentration of structures. While rain was received in Casper, much of the fire received little or no rain. The Sheep Herder Hill fire is now listed at 10% contained and the Elkhorn Fire is 50% contained. Together the fires have burned 15,887 acres, which is approximately a 24 square mile area.

The fire is being managed by the Rocky Mountain Incident Management Team B under the direction of incident commander Todd Pechota. There are currently 292 people assigned to the incident. The fire began on Sunday September 9, 2012 and cause of the fire is still under investigation. To date the fire has consumed seven structures.

Evacuations are still in effect for approximately 150 homes, with another 750 on advisory alert. The Red Cross is assisting with an evacuation center that has been established at the National Guard Armory in Casper. Casper Mountain, Garden Creek, Hat 6 and Circle Drive/Coal Mountain roads are still closed.

Unauthorized persons are cautioned to remain out of the fire area. Citizens can be in danger from damaged trees and power lines and can be cited for hindering firefighters efforts.

Damage assessment is being conducted by local authorities and fire officials. Property owners will be notified by local authorities if their property has been damaged or destroyed. Property owners may call Emergency Management (307) 235-9205 to leave information on where they can be contacted.

Today firefighters will continue to work on constructing and fortifying firelines, especially in the west and northwest portions of the fire and around the residences. On the remainder of the fire crews will focus on building fireline, mop up and patrol.

Agencies assisting in the firefighting effort include Natrona County Fire District, Casper Fire-EMS, Casper Mountain, Mills, Evansville, Bar-Nunn Fire Departments, Wyoming Army National Guard, Natrona County Emergency Management, Natrona County Sheriff's Department, Wyoming Medical Center, American Red

Cross, Salvation Army, Wyoming State Forestry Division, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the U.S. Forest Service.

Fire stats at a glance:

Start Date: Sunday, September 9, 2012

Cause: Under investigation

Acreage: 15,887

Percent Contained: Sheep Herder Hill Fire -10%
Elkhorn Fire – 50%

Engines: 17

Structures destroyed: 7

Structures/outbuildings threatened: 853

Personnel: 292

Crews: (4) Type 1, and (1) Type 2

Aviation :(4) Type 1 Heavy lift helicopters,
(2 are Wyoming National Guard).

(3) Type 3 light helicopters

(2) VLAT (Very Large Air Tankers)

(4) SEAT (Single Engine Air Tankers)

Injuries: 0

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