

**NEWS RELEASE
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Fires active in Eastern Oregon

VALE, Oregon – Intense lightning activity last evening sparked multiple fires throughout eastern Oregon and western Idaho. Tracy Skerjanec, acting Fire Management Officer for the Bureau of Land Management's eastern most Oregon district, said the Vale District responded to 13 fires last night and today.

SADDLE BUTTE/THREE FINGERS

The Saddle Butte and Three Fingers Fires are burning in the Leslie Gulch/Succor Creek area; however, there is no eminent threat to campsites in the area. The Saddle Butte Fire is estimated at 2,400 acres, and the Three Fingers Fire is estimated at 45 acres.

CLARK BUTTE

The Clark Butte Fire (15 miles west of Jordan Valley) grew to 18,000 acres today. Terrain is primarily rangeland with grasses and sage.

LOVELAND HORSE CAMP

The Loveland Horse Camp Fire, 20 miles southeast of Rome, is estimated at less than 2,000 acres.

HARRIS CREEK FIRE

The Harris Creek Fire is estimated at 300 acres on Lookout Mountain, primarily in juniper and aspen. Two additional fires in the median of the I-84 corridor near Lookout Mountain have already been contained and controlled. Additionally, the Moores Hollow Fire was contained and controlled at 30 acres this morning.

IRONSIDE COMPLEX

A nearly 700-acre fire on Ironside Mountain near Unity is being battled in steep terrain with limited accessibility. Two National Hot Shot crews are on scene, advancing toward the interior of the fire. Aircraft have "painted" a retardant perimeter, and several engines and other resources are also on scene. Four additional fires in the Westfall area (**Swamp Creek, Poison Butte, Jim Lee and Westfall**) have been included in this complex fire, which now totals nearly 1,500 acres.

According to Skerjanec, the rugged terrain of Ironside Mountain, combined with the potential for growth, led to a decision to transfer tactical operations to the Blue Mountain Interagency Incident Management Team, led by Rob Batten. The turnover will take place at 8 a.m. tomorrow.

For additional information on these fires, please contact Debbie Lyons, Vale District Public Information Officer, at (541) 473-6218.



