

News Release



South Central Oregon
Fire Management Partnership
www.scofmp.org

For immediate release: July 13, 2012, 8 a.m.

MILLER HOMESTEAD FIRE UPDATE: JULY 13, 8:00 AM.

HINES, Ore. – Firefighters were again challenged Thursday on the Miller Homestead fire as strong, gusty winds, high temperatures and extremely dry fuels pushed the fire to the north and northeast well into the night. At last estimate, the Miller Homestead fire had spread to over 110,000 acres and was reduced to 10 percent contained due to the significant fire growth.

On Thursday evening as the fire pushed north, residents on South Harney Lake Rd near The Narrows, Oregon, were issued a Level 3 evacuation warning, encouraging them to evacuate their homes immediately at the time of notice. Winds from the southwest also moved the fire down an east facing slope toward Highway 205 south at approximately milepost 55 and to the north from there. The Miller Homestead fire spotted across Highway 205 to the east in a few places and slowly crept around in wetlands on the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. The community of Frenchglen was upgraded to a Level 2 evacuation warning, which asks residents to be prepared to leave at a moment's notice. The American Red Cross arrived in Harney County late Thursday night and set up at the Days Inn in Burns, Oregon to assist any evacuees as needed. The Red Cross will remain on site until the evacuation notices are lifted.

The community of Frenchglen, residents of South Harney Lake Rd, livestock, grazing allotments, wildlife and habitat continue to be affected. Today, over 400 personnel, helicopters, air tankers, engines, dozers and water tenders will work to re-establish control lines, protect any threatened structures, residences and the community of Frenchglen, and suppress hot spots near the fire perimeter.

Highway 205 south is closed intermittently from Diamond Lane or Frenchglen to Rock Creek Lane as the fire burns close to the roadside. A pilot car at times may also assist travelers in the area. Oregon Department of Transportation's "Trip Check" web site has the most current information on road closures within the fire area. Go to www.tripcheck.com for details. The Center Patrol Road on the Malheur National Wildlife refuge is also closed until further notice. In addition, Page Springs Campground on Steens Mountain was closed Monday, July 9, and remains closed at this time to help alleviate congestion between the visiting public and firefighting personnel. Fish Lake, Jackman Park and South Steens campgrounds and private businesses such as the Frenchglen Hotel and the Steens Mountain Resort remain open and in full service, pending access on Highway 205 south.

A public meeting was held Wednesday evening at the Frenchglen School. Additional public meetings will be held. Details are pending and will be posted on www.inciweb.org along with other fire updates as they become available.

Fire danger is EXTREME within the Burns Interagency Fire Zone and the Industrial Fire Precaution Level is a level two. A regulated fire closure is in effect for all BLM-administered lands within the Burns Interagency Fire Zone. Visitors should use caution when traveling through and recreating in the outdoors this time of year.

For more information on current wildfire activity, call 573-4519 or go online to www.inciweb.org.

To report a wildfire, call 573-1000.

For Fire Information

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