

NEWS Release Bureau of Land Management • BIFZ

28910 Hwy 20 West • Hines, Oregon 97738 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns>

Burns Interagency Fire Zone • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns/fire>

Contact: Tara Martinak (541) 573-4400 • Release No. OR-020-11-20 • August 23, 2011

BLM
Burns District Office

THEIMER CANYON WILDFIRE UPDATE: AUGUST 23

HINES, Ore. – The Theimer 2 wildfire, located 14-15 miles north of Burns and just east of Highway 395, remained calm and mostly inactive on Monday. Firefighters from the Burns Interagency Fire Zone (BIFZ), the Central Oregon District in John Day, Vale and Lakeview Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Districts, and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) worked through the day securing containment lines, completing small burnout operations and gridding for spot fires near the perimeter. A GPS reading of the fire boundary shows the burn area to be 276 acres.

Starting today, and for the next few days, firefighters will work toward complete containment of the fire by securing 100% of the control line and completing mop-up operations. Fire mop-up generally includes gridding and hand-checking for any hot spots or areas with burning potential 150 feet in from the fire perimeter.

A pilot car will again escort drivers for approximately 7 miles, between mileposts 53 and 60, due to heavy equipment on the roadway. If at all possible, please avoid the wildfire area until conditions improve.

The Theimer 2 wildfire was discovered on Sunday, August 21 around 2:00 p.m. After investigation by local and BLM law enforcement, the cause of the fire was determined as arson. If you have any information about this crime or the person(s) involved, please contact the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, ODF, or the Harney County Sheriff's office as soon as possible.

Temperatures are expected to be hot and dry throughout the week with minimal winds and the potential for thunderstorms late Wednesday and Thursday. Fire danger remains VERY HIGH within the BIFZ and the Industrial Fire Precaution Level is a level three, partial shutdown. A regulated fire closure is in effect for the east side of Steens Mountain. Visitors should use extreme caution when traveling through and recreating in the outdoors this time of year.

To report a wildfire, call 573-1000.

For more information on public use restrictions or regulated fire closures, call 573-4555.

For more information on current wildfire activity, call 573-4519.



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