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LIGHTNING STRIKES SPARK FIRES IN SOUTH CENTRAL OREGON

Lakeview, Ore- In the last 24 hours South Central Oregon Fire Management Partnership lands have been experiencing the first major lightning activity of June. By 12:00 pm this afternoon, there have been 15 reported wildfires started by the recent storms. The largest fire is the 2 acre Threes Creeks Fire on the Fremont-Winema National Forest. All other fires have remained small at 0.10 acre on lands managed by the Lakeview District of Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Fremont-Winema National Forest, and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). In addition, one lightning fire has been reported at Crater Lake National Park but it too has remained small in size.

The two acre Three Creeks Fire, located approximately ten miles east of Diamond Lake Junction, OR. The Castle Fire, discovered on the Crater Lake National Park is north of Highway 62, three mile east of the Park's western border. The first reported fire was the Totem Pole Fire six mile south of Chiloquin. Both the Castle and Totem Pole fires remained small at 0.01 acres.

Thunderstorms and scattered thunderstorms this morning will diminish later this morning, then become scattered again this afternoon and evening. Firefighters worked to keep all other fires under two acres or less in size. The fifteen fires have been: seven on the Fremont-Winema National Forest, five on State, two on BLM Lakeview District, and one on Crater Lake lands.

The National Weather Service has issued a Red Flag Warning now in effect until 11 pm this evening. Impacts will be increasing thunderstorm activity creating erratic fire behavior and new fire starts in southwest Oregon in fire weather zones 617, 619, 620, 621, 622, and 623. Counties affected: Curry, Josephine, Jackson, and Klamath.

The public is urged to use caution when traveling on roads and trails. If smoking, never throw a lit match, or cigarette, from a vehicle or along a road or trail; make sure they are extinguished. If camping, remember to make sure your campfire is completely out before leaving the site. This can be done by pouring and stirring water on the fire until it is cold to the touch. If woodcutting, be sure to refuel or

adjust your saw on bare ground, not on dry forest materials. Let your saw cool several minutes before you restart the saw.

For additional fire information visit:

Lakeview Interagency Fire Center
<http://www.scofmp.org/lifc.shtml>

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