



Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center
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FIRE NEWS--Central Oregon Interagency Dispatch Center

For Immediate Release: July 19, 2012- 9:00 a.m.

Contact: Media Desk, 541/416-6811 www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/fire

Firefighters Make Progress on Central Oregon Wildfires

Central Oregon – Firefighters are still working on several fires ignited by a lightning storm that passed through Central Oregon Tuesday night and will continue to look for any new starts over the next several days.

Firefighters took advantage of cool overnight temperatures and stopped the forward progress of the Buck Creek Fire, located 17 miles northeast of Hampton. This fire grew quickly yesterday, reaching 3,500 acres by evening; however, it did not gain any additional acreage overnight. The fire, burning in light grass and sagebrush, is now 60 percent contained. Fire officials will use their resources to continue securing and improving the perimeter before the heat of the day. Winds associated with the expected afternoon/evening thunderstorms could also cause an increase in fire behavior this afternoon. Two additional 20-person crews will join the resources already on scene today, bringing the total to four 20-person handcrews, 8 engines, a helicopter, and a dozer. Private landowners with the Post-Paulina Rangeland Protection Association will also continue providing assistance on this fire.

The Baker Canyon Fire did not grow overnight and remains 8,309 acres and 50 percent contained this morning. Fire crews will continue to work on improving the containment line and to keep the fire out of the Trout Creek recreation area. Full containment is expected 7/20/12.

Smokejumpers and rappellers are also working on two additional wildfires that started yesterday. Incident #288 is approximately 30 acres and located in a remote location 10 miles northeast of Mitchell in the Clark Canyon area. Incident #283 is located 8 miles southwest of Paulina on Sulphur Butte and in 12 acres and 40 percent contained this morning. Access, limited water and steep terrain will be the main challenges to reach full containment on these fires.

Firefighters are also gearing up for another potential day of lightning. Although the storms can come with rain, rising temperatures over the next several days increases the potential for lightning “holdover” fires. A holdover fire is a fire that starts from lightning; however, it smolders and remains fairly hidden in the roots or the base of a tree until the area dries out. These types of fires can show up for days or even weeks after a storm.

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