



BUTTE LIGHTNING COMPLEX

Fact Sheet

Thursday, June 26, 2008 8:00 p.m.
www.fire.ca.gov



Information Line: 530-538-7826

Incident Name: Butte Lightning Complex **Incident Number:** CABTU007660

Location: Butte County

Command Team: CAL FIRE Incident Command Team #9

Lightning Complex Start Date: June 21, 2008

Incident Type: Wildland Fire **Acres:** 7,500 Acres **Cause:** Lightning

% Containment: 15% **Estimated Containment:** 07/9/08

Fatalities: 0 **Injuries:** 4 minor injuries to firefighters

Structures Destroyed: 2 on the Old Utah Mine site.

Structures Damaged: None **Structures Threatened:** 1,200 residences

Resources: Hand Crews 16 Dozers 25 Engines 230 Helicopters 2 Tankers 0
Water Tenders 30 Overhead Personnel 114 Total Personnel: 1313

The Butte Lightning Complex currently consists of 31 fires divided into geographical branches to allow for coordination, management, and accountability of resources. The current Branches are listed below and only fires that currently pose the highest potential threat are identified by name. The fires are evaluated daily to determine risk potential. Evacuations and Road Closures are listed on page two.

Concow Branch:

- **Rim Fire** – 330 acres, actively burning in the area of Rim Road and Hwy. 70. Fire continues to threaten the community of Concow. Containment lines have been constructed on the western flank and a portion of the southern flank of the fire. Dozers will continue working to tie in lines in conjunction with constructing additional fuel breaks.
- **Empire/Sawmill Fire** – 1,000+ acres, actively burning north of Hog Ranch Road at the northern end of the Concow Reservoir. Progress is being made putting in line to stop the westward spread of the fire to protect the threatened community of Concow.

Stirling Branch:

- **West Fire** – 600 acres, the fire is burning on the east side of the West Branch of the Feather River drainage. Dozers are cutting line across the ridge top to prevent fire from crossing to the west side. Two structures have been destroyed in the Old Utah Mine Area.
- **Break Neck** – 150 acres, burning in an area north and east of Stirling City.
- **Camp** – 2500 acres, located due to infrared flight mapping data and located on the north side of Hwy. 70 near the Plumas National Forest Boundary.

Hwy 32 Branch:

- **Smokey/Little Smokey** – 300 acres, fires have burned together and progress is being made with a dozer containment line. This fire is burning west of Hwy 32 in Tehama County South of Soda Springs.

-More-

South Fork Branch:

- **Frey Fire** – 1500 acres, burning north of La Porte Road near Jackson Ranch with rough, steep terrain. Does not pose an immediate threat to populated areas and is expected to burn between 3,000-5,000 acres.

Road Closures:

Hwy 70 at Big Bend Rd to Greenville Y, (Hwy 89 & 70)
Concow Rd. at Hwy 70 (closed to through traffic)
Concow Rd North from Jordan Hill Rd
Jordan Hill from Concow Rd. to Coutolenc (Open to residents only)
Rim Rd./Andy Mt Rd at Hwy 70
Deadwood Road @ Hwy 70
Lunt Road at Hwy 70
Pinkston Canyon Rd @ Hwy 70
Bardee's Bar Rd @ Big Bend Rd
French Creek Rd @ Oro-Quincy Hwy

Immediate Threat Evacuation Advisories:

Concow Road @ Jeffery Pine Lane North to Rim Road including all tributary roads
Andy Mt. Rd/Rim Rd
Crain Ridge/Ponderosa way
Hwy 70 from the CAL FIRE Station 36 to Pulga Road
Pulga Road from Hwy. 70 to the end of Pulga Road

Precautionary Evacuation Advisories:

NEW Coutolenc Rd. from Skyway to Hupp-Cutolenc Rd. and all cross streets
Jonesville
Butte Meadows
Big Bend Road and tributaries which also includes Dark Canyon Road and Paiute

Evacuation Centers -

Spring Valley School – 530-895-0000
2771 Pentz Road (Corner of Hwy 70 and Pentz Road)

Las Plumas High School - 530-538-2740
2380 Las Plumas, Oroville

Neighborhood Church – 530-343-6006
2801 Notre Dame Blvd., Chico

Animal Evacuation Centers –

Small Animals: Spring Valley School – 530-895-0000
2771 Pentz Rd (Corner of Hwy 70 and Pentz Road)

Large Animals: Chico State Farms
Hagen Lane between Park Ave. and Dayton Rd. in Chico (Open from 8am-5pm)

Additional:INCIDENT SPECIFIC:

The inversion over the area lifted late in the afternoon affecting the fires. Winds began to surface and behavior increased on several fires. The West Fire moved south of Bean Soup Bar which was a pre-determined “decision point” for potential threat to the residents along Coutolenc Road. A “Precautionary Threat Evacuation Advisory” was issued for the residents on Coutolenc Road from Skyway to Hupp-Coutolenc Road and all cross streets in between. Approximately 165 homes are in this new evacuation area.

Significant winds are predicted throughout the evening at Jarbo Gap. Additional resources have been requested to augment forces. The weather will continue to have a direct impact on the fire behavior of these fires over the next several days.

Citizens in or near the affected areas should maintain a heightened state of awareness as this fire complex is still actively burning. Officials are encouraging residents to monitor the fire situation in and around their area via the local media. If conditions change, fire and law enforcement officials will make immediate notification to keep the public informed.

GENERAL:

As a result of the large number of significant fires throughout California, firefighting resources are limited and priorities for resource allocation are being continually re-evaluated based on incident threat to life and property. A significant amount of resources have arrived at the Butte Lightning Complex during the last 24 hours and more are expected over the next few days.

Additionally, fire officials are asking that as July 4th approaches citizens exercise extra caution to prevent new fires. Citizens should be aware of any fire restrictions and regulations in their area.

As a result of poor visibility due to smoke and the increased volume of emergency vehicles on the roadways, citizens are asked to use diligence and caution when traveling throughout the affected areas.

Officials would like to thank the residents for their continued cooperation and preparedness during this natural disaster. Every effort will be made to return evacuated residents to their homes as soon as it is safe to do so.