



BUTTE LIGHTNING COMPLEX

Fact Sheet

Friday, June 27, 2008 8:45 a.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:** 10,660 Acres **Cause:** Lightning

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

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

Structures Destroyed: 2

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

Resources: Hand Crews 22 Dozers 26 Engines 230 Helicopters 0 Tankers 4
Water Tenders 15 Overhead Personnel 219 Total Personnel: 1,313

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** – 900 acres, burning in the area of Rim Road and Hwy. 70. Fire continues to threaten the community of Concow. Due to the lack of predicted intense winds during the night fire officials are looking to make significant progress on this fire today.
- **Empire/Sawmill Fire** – 3,000 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** – 3,000 acres, fire is still burning on the east side of the West Branch of the Feather River drainage. Dozers continue to cut 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 of this fire.
- **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. This fire continues to burn actively.

-More-

Hwy 32 Branch:

- **Smokey/Little Smokey** – 1500+ acres, The 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.

South Fork Branch:

- **Frey Fire** – 1500+ acres, actively 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:

Coutolenc Rd. from Skyway to Hupp-Coutolenc Road and all cross streets
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 through to Concow Road
Lunt Road at Hwy 70
Pinkston Canyon Rd @ Hwy 70 through to Concow Road
Bardee's Bar Rd @ Big Bend Rd
French Creek Rd @ Oro-Quincy Hwy
4 Mile Ridge Road (Forest Service road) @ 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:

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

Evacuation Centers - Contact The Red Cross for specific information on the Shelters at 530-

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:

CURRENT SITUATION SPECIFIC:

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

During the night, the inversion layer once again settled into the area. Significant winds that were predicted to materialize, especially in the Jarbo Gap area, were lighter than expected, lessening the potential impact to fire spread and activity. Today the inversion layer is expected to begin lifting around 1:00 p.m., creating an influx of cooler, unstable air with winds shifting from the east to a south/south-westerly direction. This change in weather could produce a significant risk for fire growth and erratic fire behavior. Thunderstorms and dry lightning are predicted for Saturday.

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 radio and television outlets as well as CAL FIRE at www.fire.ca.gov and the Butte County website at www.buttecounty.net. 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 resources 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 legal 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 used 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.