



BUTTE LIGHTNING COMPLEX

Fact Sheet

Friday, June 27, 2008 9:00 pm
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:** 11,500 Acres **Cause:** Lightning

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

Fatalities: 0 **Injuries:** 6 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 1 Tankers 4
Water Tenders 28 Overhead Personnel 226 Total Personnel: 1,606

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. Fire Crews made significant progress on this fire today. The north side of is in difficult terrain and still requires containment line construction.
- **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 communities of Concow, Magalia, and Paradise.

Stirling Branch:

- **West Fire** – 3,000 acres, the 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. Progress is being made putting in line to stop the westward spread of the fire to protect the threatened communities of Magalia and Paradise.
- **Breakneck** – 180 acres, burning in an area north and east of Stirling City. Active fire occurred today when the inversion lifted in the afternoon. Air and Ground firefighting resources were able to contain several spot fires on the west flank today preventing an evacuation of Stirling City. .
- **Camp** – 5000+ acres, the fire is actively burning on both sides of Hwy. 70 near the Plumas National Forest Boundary. The fire crossed the highway and has now joined with several fires on the south side of Hwy. 70. Several fires on this branch and on the adjoining Plumas National Forest are expected to merge together with a potential to burn 23,000 acres. This fire poses a significant threat to the transmission lines from the PG&E hydroelectric plants on the Feather River.

-More-

Hwy 32 Branch:

- **Smokey/Little Smokey** – 1500+ acres, Progress continues on construction of a dozer containment line. With the lifting of the inversion fire activity increased and crowning occurred in several areas along the fireline. This fire is burning west of Hwy 32 in Tehama County South of Soda Springs and is a threat to Butte Meadows and Jonesville.

South Fork Branch:

- **Frey Fire** – 1500+ acres, actively burning north of La Porte Road near Jackson Ranch with rough, steep terrain. The South Fire on the Plumas National Forest may merge with the Frey fire. There is no immediate threat to populated areas however, significant growth potential exists which would cause a loss of valuable timber.

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
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:

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

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)

Current Situation:

Progress was made today on several of the priority fires. Efforts and resources are being concentrated on fires that are threatening communities. The inversion layer lifted late in the afternoon affecting the Smokey, Breakneck, and Camp Fires. Seven helicopters were used today on fires where the inversion lifted. There has been no change in the Evacuation or road closures since this morning's Fact Sheet.

The weather forecast for Saturday and Sunday is for isolated thunderstorms and dry lightning. A Fire Weather Watch is in effect for tomorrow with a high probability of it being upgraded to a Red Flag Warning. Fire officials are very concerned about the potential for additional fire starts if lightning occurs. The thunderstorms will produce significant winds that will affect the current fires. A lightning Plan has been prepared by CAL FIRE and the Butte Unit to prepare for new fire starts. Additional resources are still arriving from throughout the state to assist with the firefighting efforts.

It is important to reiterate that all residents who live 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.

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 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.