



BUTTE LIGHTNING COMPLEX

Fact Sheet

Monday, June 30, 2008 8:00 am.

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:** 16,000 Acres **Cause:** Lightning

% Containment: % 25 **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 38 Dozers 59 Engines 236 Helicopters 11 Tankers 0
Water Tenders 65 Overhead Personnel 286 Total Personnel: 2,199

The Butte Lightning Complex currently consists of 34 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 (1,758 acres, 85% contained)** – At 1200 noon on 6-29-08 the immediate threat evacuation status was changed to a precautionary evacuation, approximately 1,200 residents were allowed to return to the Concow area. However, there is still active fire in the area of Rim Road and residents should remain alert to fire conditions and equipment operating in the area.
- **Empire Fire (3,000 acres, 45% contained)** – The fire is still burning on the east side of the West Branch of the Feather River drainage and north of Hog Ranch Rd. at the northern end of Concow Reservoir. The West Fire and the Empire Fire have merged. The focus for fire crews is to continue securing the south/west corner of this fire. Two structures were destroyed in the Old Utah Mine Area.

Stirling Branch:

- **West Fire (3,000 acres, 50% contained)** – The fire is still burning on the east side of the West Branch of the Feather River drainage, and dozer's continue to cut line across the ridge top to prevent the fire from crossing to the west side. As good progress continues to be made on this area, crews are being moved to the east side of the fire. Two structures have been destroyed in the Old Utah Mine Area of this fire.
- **Breakneck (210 acres, 50% contained)** – The fire is burning in an area north and east of Stirling City. Active fire occurred yesterday when the inversion lifted in the afternoon. Air and ground forces were able to contain a ½ acre spot fire on the west side. Fire officials are hoping to have this fire contained in 1-2 days.

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Hwy 32 Branch:

- **Smokey (1,700+ acres, 70% contained)** – Progress continues on construction of a dozer containment line. This fire is burning west of Hwy 32 in Tehama County, south of Soda Springs, and is a threat to Butte Meadows and Jonesville. The fire has been held on the east and south sides with active burning still occurring within the northeast corner of the fire. Fire officials are looking to contain this fire in 2-3 days.

South Fork Branch:

- **Frey Fire (1,500+ acres, 60% contained)** – The fire is burning north of Lumpkin Road near Jackson Ranch and the Feather Falls Scenic area on the West end of the fire. with rough, steep terrain. Plans are underway to coordinate fire fighting activity with the South Fire in the Plumas National Forest under the command of the Canyon Complex. There is no immediate threat to populated areas but potential for significant growth when the inversion lifts. Good progress was made yesterday on the Frey Fire and is expected to continue as more air and ground support become available. Containment is expected within 2-3 days if current weather conditions continue.

Hwy 70 Branch:

- **Camp Fire (3,500 acres)** – The fire is actively burning on both sides of Hwy 70 near the Plumas National Forest boundary. Several fires on this branch and the Plumas National Forest have joined together with a potential for 23,000 acres. Plans are underway to coordinate fire fighting activities with the Pit Fire in the Plumas National Forest.

Road Closures: Concow Rd. at the end of the pavement
Jordan Hill Rd. @ Coutolenc Rd. (6 miles in)
Hupp-Coutolenc Rd. between Skyway and Coutolenc Rd. (open to residents only)
Coutolenc Rd. between Lower Skyway and Upper Skyway (open to residents only)
Hwy 32 (Tehama Co.) one-way controlled traffic at various locations from 12 miles west
to 8.9 miles west of the junction of Hwy 36
Hwy 70 from Big Bend Rd. to Hwy 89 (Greenville Y)
Andy Mt Rd. / Rim Rd. @ Hwy. 70 (resident's only)
Bardee's Bar Rd. @ Big Bend Rd.
French Creek Rd. @ Oro-Quincy Hwy
4 Mile Ridge Rd. (Forest Service road) @ Oro-Quincy Hwy
Oro-Quincy Hwy (open to thru traffic ONLY from Mt. House Rd. to Bucks Lake)
Jordan Hill Rd. at Hoffman Rd.

Immediate Threat Evacuation Advisories:

The Boy Scout camp in Butte Meadows remains under an immediate evacuation order.

Precautionary Evacuation Advisories:

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

Evacuation Centers:

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

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

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Animal Evacuation Centers:

Las Plumas High School-2380 Las Plumas Ave. Oroville.

Large Animals: Chico State Farms

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

Current Situation:

Progress continued through the evening on the priority fires. Efforts and resources are still being concentrated on fires that are threatening communities. The inversion layer remained throughout most of the day, but lifted more than in previous days thus allowing for the use of helicopters late in the day. Aircraft support will remain dependent on air quality. In the Feather River Canyon area fire activity continues.

It is important to reiterate that all residents who live in or near the affected areas should continue to 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 resource 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. Residents should remain aware of the situation.

END