



BUTTE LIGHTNING COMPLEX

Fact Sheet

Tuesday, July 1, 2008 7:00 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 Complex

Number of Fires: 34 **Number of Active Fires:** 18 (6 have merged) **Number of Contained Fires:** 10

Total Acres for all fires: 17,000 Acres **Cause:** Lightning

% Containment: 30% **Estimated Containment:** 07/10/08

Fatalities: 0 **Injuries:** 6 minor injuries to firefighters

Structures Destroyed: 2

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

Resources: Hand Crews 41 Dozers 56 Engines 251 Helicopters 11 Tankers 0

Water Tenders 64 Overhead Personnel 299 Total Personnel: 2,389

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. Daily coordination has been taking place between the Plumas National Forest and the Lassen National Forest regarding fires near or adjacent to the Butte Complex Fires. This operational period the Butte Lightning Complex will be assuming command of the Pit Fire located on the Plumas National Forest's (PNF) Canyon Complex. The Canyon Complex on the Plumas National Forest managed by USFS Incident Command Team # 3 will take over command of the Frey Fire today. Every effort is being used to coordinate incidents occurring in geographical areas to insure firefighter safety and to make the best use of resources, personnel and logistical support.

Evacuations and road closures are listed on page two and three.

Concow Branch:

- **Rim Fire (1,758 acres, 85% contained)** – On 6-29-08 the immediate threat evacuation status was changed to a precautionary evacuation. 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 (see West Fire, 45% contained)** – The fire is still holding 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. Eleven helicopters were able to work today. Two structures were destroyed in the Old Utah Mine Area.

Stirling Branch:

- **West Fire (5,200 acres (includes acreage from the Empire Fire), 50% contained)** – The fire is still burning on the east side of the West Branch of the Feather River drainage. Good progress continues to be made on containing this fire. Areas of indirect fire line are being monitored closely for hot spots. Mop up operations are underway to continue controlling this fire. Two structures in the Old Utah Mine area were destroyed in the early stages of the fire. Containment of this fire is expected in 2-3 days.
- **Breakneck (210 acres, 85% contained)** – The fire is burning in an area north and east of Stirling City. As the inversion continues to break up fire activity has increased on the Breakneck Fire.

Hwy 32 Branch:

- **Smokey (1,700+ acres, 85% contained)** – 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.

Hwy 70 Branch:

- **Camp Fire (5,900 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.
- **Frey Fire** – Fire Crews made significant progress in protecting portions of the Feather Falls Scenic Area, accessed by the National Recreation Trail and visible from the viewing platform at Feather Falls. Fire command will be assumed by the Canyon Complex and Federal Incident Command Team 3.
- **Pit Fire** - (Plumas National Forest) Dozers will be working on the north side of the fire. Crews will be working to keep the fire east of Hwy.70, south of Ben Lomond Trail.

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.) Closed 13 miles east of Forest Ranch to junction of Hwy 36
Andy Mt Rd. / Rim Rd. @ Hwy. 70 (residents 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.

* **NEW:** At 3:00 p.m. Monday, June 30, 2008, Caltrans, CHP and fire officials opened Hwy 70 to through traffic escorted by a pilot car, one lane of traffic allowed with control points at Andy Mtn. Rd/Jarbo Gap and at Rock Creek Dam.

Immediate Threat Evacuation Advisories:

The Camp Lassen 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: The Red Cross Evacuation Shelters were transitioned to stand-by status at 4:00 p.m. Monday, June 30, 2008 and are no longer open. The Butte County EOC will monitor the situation closely to ensure that the care and sheltering needs of people and animals are provided if conditions change.

Animal Evacuation Centers: For additional information on the Animal Evacuation Shelters contact the Butte County EOC Information Desk at 530-538-2739.

Small Animals: Las Plumas High School- This small animal shelter was closed at 12:00 p.m. today.

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

*Residents on a Precautionary Evacuation are advised to keep large animals at the shelter (or with family and friends) away from the affected area until all evacuation orders have been lifted.

Current Situation:

As weather conditions continue to transition to be warmer and drier, the potential for increased fire activity remains. Firefighters are working diligently to get containment lines in place in advance of the weather change.

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:

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.

Officials would like to thank the residents for their continued cooperation and preparedness during this natural disaster. Residents should remain aware of the situation. In addition, incident personnel have been overwhelmed by the communities' support of firefighting efforts.