



# BUTTE LIGHTNING COMPLEX

## Fact Sheet

Wednesday, July 2, 2008 8:00 pm.

[www.fire.ca.gov](http://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:** 36 **Number of Active Fires:** 13 (12 have merged) **Number of Contained Fires:** 11

**Total Acres for all fires:** 17,500 Acres **Cause:** Lightning

**% Containment:** 30% **Estimated Containment:** \*07/14/08\*

**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 246 Helicopters 11 Tankers 0

Water Tenders 64 Overhead Personnel 299 Total Personnel: 2,408

The Butte Lightning Complex currently consists of 36 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. Last operational period the Butte Lightning Complex assumed 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 took over command of the Frey Fire yesterday. 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, 100% Contained)** – Residents of Concow are still on a precautionary evacuation. Even though the Rim fire has been contained the local residents should remain vigilant and alert to fire conditions and equipment operating in the area.  
\*\*\* NEW\*\*\* Mop up continues on this contained fire.
- **Empire Fire / West Fire (5200 acres, 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 on the fire yesterday. Two structures were destroyed in the Old Utah Mine Area. Areas of indirect fire line are being monitored closely for hot spots. Mop up operations are underway. Containment is expected sometime tomorrow.

### Stirling Branch:

- **Breakneck (210 acres, 90% contained)** – The fire is burning in an area north and east of Stirling City. The fire continues to flare up along the line. Helicopters continue to work hot spots along the line with ground resources.

### 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 is being held on the east and south sides with active burning still occurring within the northeast corner of the fire. Good progress was made on containment today.  
\*\*\*\*\* **New**\*\*\*\*\* Fire officials are anticipating containment of this fire tomorrow.

### 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 was assumed by the Canyon Complex and Federal Incident Command Team 3 yesterday.
- **Pit Fire** - Dozers worked on the north side of the fire yesterday and made good progress. Today crews, dozers and aircraft will be working to keep the fire east of Hwy.70, south of Ben Lomond Trail.

**Road Closures:** \*\*NEW\*\* Hwy. 70 is closed from Big Bend Rd. to Hwy. 89 at the Greenville “Y”  
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.

### **Immediate Threat Evacuation Advisories:**

None are in place.

### **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 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 at 530-538-2739.**

Small Animals: Las Plumas High School- This small animal shelter was closed.

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:**

Hwy. 70 was closed today from Big Bend Road to Hwy. 89 at the Greenville “Y”. The highway is being closed due to significant “rolling” materials from the fire areas. The rolling materials are large and small boulders, tree stumps, tree branches, trees, dirt, and other debris. A serious threat to the public and motorists exists along the highway. No through traffic will be allowed in the fire area. Residents living in the closure area will be permitted access to their homes.

Progress continued through the day on the priority fires. Tomorrow’s weather will be warmer and dryer with the inversion predicted to lift mid-morning. This change in conditions will potentially cause fire activity to increase. The inversion lifted today allowing helicopters to do extensive work on most of the fires.

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, television and other media outlets as well as CAL FIRE at [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov) and the Butte County website at [www.buttecounty.net](http://www.buttecounty.net). If conditions change, fire and law enforcement officials will make immediate notification to keep the public informed.

### **General:**

**Fire officials are asking that as July 4<sup>th</sup> approaches citizens exercise extra caution to prevent new fires. All fireworks used by the public can potentially cause a threatening fire. Citizens should be aware of the legal fire restrictions and regulations in their area. Per Law Enforcement there will be zero tolerance when it comes to illegal fireworks. We strongly encourage the public to enjoy the holiday by attending a professional fireworks display with their family.**

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 continue to be overwhelmed by the communities’ support of the firefighting efforts.