



BUTTE LIGHTNING COMPLEX

Fact Sheet

Wednesday, July 9, 2008 11a.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 Complex

Number of Fires: 41 **Number of Active Fires:** 14 **Number of Contained Fires:** 14

Total Acres for all fires: 49,000 Acres **Cause:** Lightning

% Containment: 40%

Fatalities: 0 **Injuries:** 16

Structures Destroyed: 40 confirmed residence, 10 unconfirmed structures, 10 outbuilding

Structures Damaged: None determined

Structures Threatened: 3800

Resources: **Hand Crews** 56 **Dozers** 42 **Engines** 313 **Helicopters** 0 **Tankers** 0

Water Tenders 60 **Overhead Personnel** 326 **Total Personnel:** 2,773

Current Situation:

East winds surfaced again in the early morning hours causing sustained runs with spotting, torching and crowning. Fire strategies include combining control lines of multiple fires and the use of community established fuel breaks and contingency lines. Approximately 10,000 residents were evacuated.

Fire Update:

- **Camp Fire** – The fire has grown significantly over the last 48 hours. On Monday evening significant winds surfaced earlier than predicted and the camp fire and a holding firing operation were affected by the extreme fire weather. Fire activity increased and made significant downhill runs.
- **Rim Fire** – The Camp Fire has burned into the Rim Fire and we are seeing some re-burning of fuels.
- **West/Empire Fire** –. The Camp Fire has burned into the West Fire. Hot spots are being mopped up along the west branch of Feather River. The fire still remains east of the West Branch. Two structures were destroyed in the Old Utah Mine Area in the early days of the fire.
- **Breakneck** – The fire is burning in an area north and east of Stirling City.
- **Smokey** – The fire has hotspots on the southwest side near Big Chico Creek, firefighters will continue to work towards containment.
- **Pit Fire** – The Pit Fire continues to progress to the west and the north and is holding west of the Feather River. A 5 acre spot fire was identified yesterday, north of the Pit Fire. The community of Storrie (Plumas County) is still under an evacuation warning. Priorities are to keep the fire West of the Feather

River/Hwy. 70, protect homes in Storrie and to protect critical infrastructures in the Feather River Canyon.

- **Belden Fire** – The Belden Fire is burning near the town of Belden off of Hwy. 70. Coordination of resource continues with the Canyon Complex. Crews will be working to secure the community and to continue containment lines on this fire. The fire has burned down to Highway 70 in various locations. The fire is currently holding at Chips Creek on the west, Indian Creek on the east, and the Feather River on the south. The Plumas County Sheriffs Department issued a “Voluntary Evacuation” for the Belden area on July 2, 2008. The evacuation is still in place.

**** Belden residents may encounter additional road closures near their community as the fire progresses ****

Evacuations:

Please see attached page or contact the Butte County EOC at 530-538-2739 for current evacuation information.

Evacuation Centers:

Las Plumas High School
2380 Las Plumas Avenue
Oroville 530-538-2310
(no small animals)

Church of Nazarene
2238 Monte Vista
Oroville 530-533-7464
(no small animals)

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

Chico State Yolo Hall
400 West First Street, Chico

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

Road Closures: For information on road closures contact the Butte County EOC

Additional Information:

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. Large fires continue to burn adjacent to this complex. 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 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.