



BUTTE LIGHTNING COMPLEX Update



Friday, July 25, 2008
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 #5
Lightning Complex Start Date: June 21, 2008
Incident Type: Wildland Fire Complex
Number of Fires: 41 **Number of Active Fires:** 1
Total Acres for all fires: 59,440 Acres **Cause:** Lightning
% Containment: 90%
Fatalities: 1 civilian **Injuries:** 55 injuries
Structures Destroyed: Estimated at this time to be 106 residences and 11 out buildings

Resources:

Hand Crews: 40 **Dozers:** 19 **Engines:** 96 **Helicopters:** 5 **Tankers:** 0
Water Tenders: 32 **Overhead Personnel:** 285 **Total Personnel:** 1,660

Current Situation: Firefighters continue to be aided by favorable weather conditions with very little wind. There are still unburned islands within the perimeter of the fire that may be seen burning. Firefighters continue to mop up, strengthen existing control lines and patrol the fire areas. Air and ground resources are still concentrating on the north end of the Complex. As fire activity decreases resources will be released and reassigned to other fires.

Residents should continue to remain alert and be prepared for evacuations if conditions change. Remain calm and follow all instructions from fire and law enforcement officials. Preservation of life remains the Number 1 priority.

Camp Fire: Containment at 90%. Mop up and patrol continues as it will for the next several weeks throughout the fire area. Firefighters are continuing efforts to ensure that there are no flare ups within the fire lines. Crews continue to work on the northern end of the fire where there is still active fire. Expected containment is Sunday, July 27, 2008.

PG&E Assistance:

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, contract inspectors and tree crews are assessing trees and performing emergency tree felling to remove hazards. Tree crews will be working in the area until the immediate hazards have been removed. If you have any questions regarding tree issues please contact PG&E at (530) 894-4476 and they will return your call within 24 hrs.

Evacuation Centers:

Currently there are no evacuation advisories for the Butte Lightning Complex. Contact the Red Cross for further evacuation center information at 530-701-2390.

Road Information:

Hwy 70 and Hwy 32 are both open to traffic, however motorists may encounter delays due to fire crews and / or Cal Trans working in the area. You may contact Cal Trans for current road conditions at 1-800-427-7623.

Additional Information:

- It is important to reiterate that this fire complex is still actively burning. All residents who live in or near the affected areas should continue to maintain a heightened state of awareness. Officials are encouraging residents to monitor the fire situation in and around their area via local radio, television and other media outlets and CAL FIRE at www.fire.ca.gov and the Butte County Web site at www.buttecounty.net. If conditions change, fire and law enforcement officials will make immediate notification.
- The Frey fire was delegated back to the Butte Lightning Complex at Monday, 7/21/08 which resulted in a 4000 acre growth to the incident. The Frey fire is 100% contained.
- CAL FIRE Incident Command Team 5 assumed command of the Butte Lightning Complex Thursday, July 24, 2008 from CAL FIRE Incident Command Team 9. This was a first for CAL FIRE. It was done because of the duration of the fire and the fact that a northern command team was available. Incident Command Team 9 is from southern California.

The Butte Lightning Complex consists of many cooperating agencies, ranging from local, state and federal agencies, as well as assistance from agencies outside of California and the nation. There have been many volunteers that have been active in helping those impacted by the fires.