

PONDEROSA FIRE UPDATE

Monterey Ranger District, Los Padres National Forest

Monday, August 3, 10:00 AM



Information Center: 831-385-5434, ext. 277 Public Inquires, ext. 283 Media
(8am-8pm)

Fire Statistics	Firefighting Resources
<p>Acres burned: 350 ac. Miles of fireline to build: 6 mi. Date started: 8-1-2009 Percent contained: 0% Expected containment: No estimate Firefighter injuries to date: 2 Minor, Firefighters returned to duty Structures threatened: 0 Structures destroyed: 0 Suppression cost to date: \$1,000,000</p>	<p>Crews: 13 Engines: 19 Helicopters: 2 Air tankers: 9 Dozers: 4 Total personnel assigned: 429</p>

Changes in statistics from previous update reflect current mapping and resource tracking.

Current Status: Good progress occurred last night on the Ponderosa Fire by firefighters. The fire remained active late into the night. By early morning, the marine layer had deepened allowing for good relative humidity recovery. Today's goal is to take advantage of opportunities to take direct suppression action, however, the terrain is steep with dense fuels and **firefighter safety is the number one priority.**

Air tankers and helicopters will be available today to support the crews on the ground..

This area was partially burned in the 2008 Chalk Fire but there are still many areas that were left unburned with numerous snags.

Cause of the fires is yet to be determined.

Because of the potential for growth of the fire and firefighter safety, California Interagency Incident Management Team with Incident Commander James Smith, will be assumed management of the fire today at 0600.

Evacuations: Campers in the Ponderosa and Nacimiento Campgrounds were evacuated last night.

Highway, Road and Area Closures: Highway-1 is open. Nacimiento-Ferguson Road, as well as Los Burros/Willow Creek Road at Highway 1 are closed to the public, open to residents only.

Media: Media must be escorted through Ft. Hunter Liggett. Request for media access can be made by contacting the Information Center at 831-385-5434 x 283.

Weather: Upper level low off the central California coast will keep the temperatures cooler than normal for tomorrow. Relative humidity will be in the 17-22%. Winds will continue to be light tomorrow. The fire is near the edge of the marine layer which will be around 2000 ft.

Agencies & Cooperators: Ft. Hunter Liggett, CalFire, CHP, CalTrans.