

Command Posts and Spike Camps – A firefighter home away from home.

Incident Command Posts, or ICP's is the location where the primary functions of the Incident Command take place. The Incident Commander and his/her staff (Operations, Planning, Logistics, Finance, Information, and Safety) are all in a common location, sometimes referred to as "Main Street". A large briefing area is here also, to provide daily information to all staff regarding everything occurring on the incident. This is also where Food, Supply, Fuel, Showers and Restrooms, and sometimes a laundry service are located. The River Complex ICP is located near Etna along Highway 3.

Spike Camps are the firefighters home away from the ICP. Usually located near a remote section of the fire line, spike camps are a transitory bed and breakfast. Breakfast and dinner plus a sack lunch are usually prepared in ICP and driven out to spike camp. Water, Gatorade, maps and daily Incident Action Plans are driven out at the same time. Fuel trucks are available to keep fuel tanks full and the engines running, and daily briefings are done in person or via a radio broadcast. Portapotties abound, but few other services may be provided. While spike camps require a lot of logistical support from the ICP, they also reduce driving time for firefighters and increase the effective working time on the fires edge.

On the River Complex, firefighters are utilizing several spike camps.

- Whites Gulch Spike is located on Sawyers Bar Road near Trooks Flat and being utilized by firefighters working the Cronan Fire.
- Cecilville Spike is found along Cecilville Road near the junction of Forest Road 38N27. This spike provides access to the west side of the Haypress Fire and northwest side of the Summer Fire.
- Coffee Creek Spike is north of Carrville in the Oneeyed Flat area and serves the east side of the Haypress Fire.

These spike camps are located about 45 miles (1 Hour and 15 minutes drivetime) away from ICP. This allows firefighter more time to work on creating defensible space around homes, preparing holding lines along roads or dozer lines and reduces the miles that firefighters must drive each day.

The most important objective on every fire is to "Ensure firefighter and public safety by using strategies and tactics, based on sound risk management, that mitigates known and anticipated hazards, while providing for the highest probability of success". Driving is one of the most dangerous jobs in firefighting, especially after a long day of physical labor while driving narrow, twisting rural mountain roads. Reducing risk while also increasing firefighter productivity is a simply smart decisions from every perspective.