

Great Basin Type 2 Incident Management Team #4



Halfway Hill Fire Update

Monday, July 18, 2022

Contact Fire Information: 435-414-9418

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<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/8215/>

Twitter: [@UtahWildfire](https://twitter.com/UtahWildfire)

Facebook: [@UtahWildfire](https://www.facebook.com/UtahWildfire)

Start Date	Cause	Size	Percent Containment	Helicopters	Engines	Crews	Dozers	Total Personnel
7/8/22	Human	11,773	39%	6	21	13	3	545

Sunday's weather "was a tale of two days," according to Mike Seaman, incident meteorologist. By 9 a.m., temperatures on the lower elevation parts of the Halfway Hill Fire were already back in the 90s. Then the mid-day storms moved over the fire, in some places scattering less than one-tenth of an inch of rain with wind gusts of over 30 mph. The bulk of the storm skirted just to the west of the fire, but the cloud cover and precipitation lowered temperatures to the 70s. The meteorologist told firefighters to expect more of the same on Monday and possibly Tuesday, before becoming very hot and dry again by Wednesday.

Today, firefighters will conduct more backburning in Chalk Creek Canyon to secure fireline. Backburning involves the construction of fireline a distance from the main fire followed by the intentional setting of fire to the grass and brush along the indirect line. This allows firefighters a higher degree of success in containing sections of fireline that are in extremely challenging locations, including along steep slopes and in heavy vegetation. Saturday's backburn was very successful and included the use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) to ignite fuels.

Once the section of fireline through Chalk Creek up to Pistol Rock is secured, firefighters will continue to monitor and patrol that edge of the fire perimeter to ensure no additional fire activity in that area will pose any problems. Some firefighting resources will then be released from the Halfway Hill Fire and made available to respond to new and emerging fires in the region. The eastern edge of the fire perimeter and around to the southern edge towards Mine Camp Peak is still active but has had only minimal growth in a week. Direct fire suppression efforts through that portion of the fire perimeter are unsafe and could be ineffective due to the rough terrain and heavy vegetation. Firefighters will take actions as the fire reaches predetermined areas where it can be safely suppressed with a higher degree of success. As a result, the fire is not likely to be fully contained until significant precipitation occurs over the fire area. The current Incident Management Team will remain in command of the fire until such time as a different organization is able to transition into the operations and continue implementing the existing plans and actions.

Closure: The Fishlake National Forest has a closure order in place in the vicinity of the Halfway Hill Fire. The closure order, including a full description of the trails, roads, and areas closed, along with maps are available at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/closures/8215/>.