

# FIRE UPDATE

Wednesday, Aug. 31, 10 a.m.



Incident Commanders: Scott Magers, OFSM Blue Team · Joe Hessel, ODF Team 1 · Brian Gales, NW13

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| <b>Fire size:</b> 13,994 acres  | <b>Structures lost:</b> 1 home, 2 other | <b>Containment:</b> 1%  |
| <b>Resources assigned:</b> 1,842  | <b>Fire information:</b> 541-414-3278   | <a href="https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/8348/">https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/8348/</a>     |
| <b>Evacuations:</b> <a href="https://tinyurl.com/JOCOEvacMap">https://tinyurl.com/JOCOEvacMap</a> |   | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/rumcreekfire2022">https://www.facebook.com/rumcreekfire2022</a> |

## Fire activity increases on Rum Creek Fire

MERLIN, Ore. – Overnight, the Rum Creek Fire pushed across the line on the east side of the fire near McKnabe Creek, burning several hundred acres. Resources are being shifted to this area to corral the slop-over and establish new control lines. An increase in fire activity is expected through Friday as the weather shifts to a hotter, drier pattern. Inversions are expected to lift earlier in the day, increasing temperatures and winds while reducing relative humidity.

As of early this morning, the fire was already burning actively on the ridges. Firefighters are expecting potential spot fires, and have shifted resources to continue alternate contingency fire lines to the east.

Last night firefighters successfully conducted burnouts on the south edge of the fire near Taylor Creek, eliminating remaining fuels between the control lines and the fire's edge. Today, they will work to secure the southeast corner of the fire working toward the north. Hose lays and pumps have been set up along many control lines, including those constructed near Stratton Creek.

On the west edge of the fire, burnout operations near Mount Peavine and the 34 road have secured more of the western edge, and crews built line from Taylor Gulch toward Chrome Ridge. Today, fire personnel will tie the line from Chrome Ridge north to Bear Gulch, and are working near Ridge Gulch. North of the Rogue River, the line tying to the Dad Creek Fire scar is expected to be completed today.

Firefighters working with the OSFM are assisting with active fire suppression as needed. They are also extinguishing all remanent heat spots found within 100 feet of buildings, and continuing to assess structures. Also they are making preparations to include clearing brush and installing sprinklers, to further develop structure protection.

More than 500 people attended Tuesday's community meeting in Grants Pass, plus over 6,200 viewers watched on Facebook live. A recording of the meeting is available at [www.facebook.com/rumcreekfire2022](http://www.facebook.com/rumcreekfire2022).

**Evacuations:** Josephine County Sheriff's Office has issued numerous evacuation orders and notifications. An interactive map showing evacuation levels according to address can be found at [//JosephineCounty.gov/FireMap](http://JosephineCounty.gov/FireMap). For the most current evacuation information and resources, go to [Josephine County Incident Information \(rvem.org\)](http://Josephine County Incident Information (rvem.org))

**Road control:** Josephine County Sheriff's Office has established traffic access points around the fire zone. Only residents (must show proof of residency) and river permit holders will be allowed through. Road blocks will be located at Galice Road near Crow Road; Galice Store; Bear Camp Road at Peavine (top intersection); Lower Grave Creek Road at Angora Creek (Grays Ranch); Quartz Creek Road about 3 miles up (end of County maintenance); Dutch Henry Road near Kelsey Creek (42 44'56.2/123 40'35.4); and Hog Creek at Galice Road. National Guard will be staffing the roadblocks.

**River status:** The Wild section of the Rogue River below Grave Creek will remain open unless fire conditions warrant closure. River status is determined on a day-to-day basis. River status will be updated daily on the Rum Creek Fire Facebook page and at [https://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/rogue/rogue\\_river.php](https://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/rogue/rogue_river.php). No new boating permits will be issued until fire closures are lifted.

**Closures:** The Bureau of Land Management Grants Pass Field Office has a fire closure area that includes the area west of Interstate 5 and north of Taylor Creek Gorge west of Stratton Creek, southwest to the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest boundary and west to East Fork Big Windy Creek and Bunker Creek. The northern boundary is the Rogue River from Grave Creek Boat. The full closure order and a map can be viewed at: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/8348/>