

FIRE UPDATE

Saturday, Sept. 3, 8 p.m.



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

Fire size: 18,768 acres	Structures lost: 1 home, 2 other	Containment: 27%
Resources assigned: 2,122	Fire information: 541-414-3278	https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/8348/
Evacuations: https://tinyurl.com/JOCOEvacMap		https://www.facebook.com/rumcreekfire2022

Tactical firing operations aid Rum Creek Fire suppression

MERLIN, Ore. – Since Wednesday, containment of the Rum Creek Fire has grown from 1 percent to 27 percent, largely due to successful tactical firing operations and direct line construction.

On the southwest flank of the fire, crews are mopping up a 50-foot buffer between recently burned control lines. Tactical patrols are expanding mop-up from 200 to 300 feet around the community of Galice after two spot fires were extinguished Friday.

Mop-up is the process of extinguishing or removing burning material near control lines, felling snags, and trenching logs to prevent them from rolling after an area has burned. The 60 to 80 degree slopes in the river canyon and nearby drainages make trenching a key part of preventing logs and rocks from rolling free of unstable soils.

Clearer skies this afternoon allowed fixed wing aircraft and helicopters to help firefighters on the ground manage tactical firing operations into the evening hours. In the coming days, firefighters aim to connect contingency lines from Hog Creek to Quartz Creek on the east side of the fire.

Overall fire spread was less than 400 acres today. The fire will continue burning actively into the night, particularly between Ennis Riffle and the Galice Boat Ramp, where the fire has burned down to the eastern shore of the Rogue River.

Winds are expected to die down as relative humidity increases in the early morning hours, reducing fire progression to creeping and smoldering until the morning inversion lifts.

“Overall, firefighters have made great progress controlling the Rum Creek Fire, especially in areas with difficult topography,” said Eric Riener, incident commander trainee for Northwest 13 IMT.

Weather: Friday, the high in Medford was 98F, 10 degrees higher than the seasonal average of 88F. Temperatures will remain in the low to mid 80s through Monday, peaking at 90 Tuesday, with continued higher relative humidity.

Evacuations: Existing evacuation orders and notifications remain in place. 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://JosephineCountyIncidentInformation(rvem.org)).

Road control: Josephine County Sheriff’s Office has established traffic access points around the fire zone. Road blocks are 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. The National Guard is staffing the roadblocks. Only residents (must show proof of residency) and permitted users will be allowed through.

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. Please call 541-471-6535 for more information regarding Rogue River permits. No new boating permits will be issued at this time.

Closures: A Bureau of Land Management Grants Pass Field Office fire closure 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 Ramp. The full closure order and a map can be viewed at: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/8348/>