

# FIRE UPDATE

Tuesday, Sept. 6 8 p.m.



Incident Commanders: Jay Winfield, NRIMT6 · Joe Hessel, ODF Team 1 · Scott Magers, OFSM Blue Team

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| <b>Fire size:</b> 20,029 acres  | <b>Structures lost:</b> 2 homes, 6 others | <b>Containment:</b> 34%   |
| <b>Resources assigned:</b> 1,840  | <b>Fire information:</b> 541-625-0849     | <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> |

## Rum Creek Fire stays calm today

MERLIN, Ore. – The National Weather Service issued a Red Flag Warning today due to high temperatures and low relative humidity, which ended at 8 p.m. A Heat Advisory extends until 11 p.m. Wednesday, with more hot weather expected later in the week. As of 6 p.m., gusts were recorded up to 15 mph on the ridgetops in the fire, with stronger winds recorded nearby.

With high temperatures, low relative humidity, and some gusty winds, the Rum Creek Fire burned actively today. On the northwest part of the fire towards the Rogue River, firefighters found and suppressed a few small spot fires. The rest of the fire stayed within the containment lines.

The northwest corner near Montgomery Creek and the Rogue River has large unburned pockets of fuels, creating a potential for fire to flare up and make a push toward containment lines. To reduce the chance of this, fire personnel plan to do a tactical burn this evening. They will ignite an interior ridgeline, expecting the fire to walk down the slopes. By mid-day tomorrow, when fire activity increases, much of this area should be burned and cooling down.

Day and night shift firefighters are monitoring the fire, watching for flames to move into crowns of trees and spread embers. Ember showers pose a threat of igniting spot fires outside containment lines. Fire personnel cool flare-ups, using aerial resources if needed. They continue to conduct thorough mop up near structures and on the fire's perimeter. In areas with scattered heat, increased fire activity helped crews locate residual heat. Some hidden hot spots begin to smoke, helping fire personnel locate and extinguish them.

Due to reduced threats to structures near the Rum Creek Fire, Oregon's Office of State Fire Marshal Blue Team and remaining structural resources are completing their assignment here. On Wednesday they will be reassigned to other fires or return to their home units.

Today, Northern Rockies Incident Management Team 6 (NRIMT6) assumed command of the Rum Creek Fire at 6 p.m. They shadowed Northwest Incident Management Team 13 (NWIMT13) for the day to ensure a smooth transfer of knowledge and resources. NWIMT13 thanks the community for their support during this fire. Oregon Department of Forestry IMT 1 will continue to manage the fire in a unified command with NRIMT6.

**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)).

**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.

**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.