

# FIRE UPDATE

Thursday, Sept. 8 9:30 p.m.



Incident Commander: Tyler McCarty, ODF Team 3

<b>Fire size:</b> 3,500 acres	<b>Structures lost:</b> 2 home, 7 other	<b>Containment:</b> 0%
<b>Resources assigned:</b> 355	<b>Fire information:</b> 541-363-8140	<a href="https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/8405/">https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/8405/</a>
<b>Evacuations:</b> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/KlamathSheriff">https://www.facebook.com/KlamathSheriff</a>		<a href="https://www.facebook.com/VanMeterFire">https://www.facebook.com/VanMeterFire</a>

## Van Meter Fire

Klamath Falls, Ore. – Oregon Department of Forestry's Incident Management Team 3, led by Incident Commander Tyler McCarty, took command of the Van Meter Fire earlier this evening. The IMT was brought in to relieve local resources and add capacity as the firefighting organization continues to increase from resources throughout the region.

The fire, located 13 miles southeast of Klamath Falls, continues to burn erratically in the Stukel Mountain area. Despite a perfect storm of hot, dry, and windy weather combined with record low fuel moisture levels, firefighters continue to make progress in several areas. The fire is currently estimated at 3,500 acres. An infrared flight will take place tonight, providing a more accurate acreage total tomorrow.

Of greatest concern is to the south of the fire in the Dodds Hollow area north of Merrill. Fire managers are working in conjunction with the Klamath County Sheriff's Office to invoke evacuation levels where needed. As of this evening a LEVEL 3 (GO NOW) evacuation order was put in place for the Dodds Hollow area that includes all addresses on Patricia Lane, Dodds Hollow Road, and Pope Road, north of Taylor Road.

The area of Crystal Springs Road east of Hill Road to South Poe Valley Road and South Poe Valley Road to Weber Road that was previously under a LEVEL 3 evacuation order has dropped to a LEVEL 2 (BE READY). The area is open to LOCAL TRAFFIC ONLY and residents should be advised that if fire and weather conditions change it may be necessary to increase the evacuation level.

For the latest up-to-date evacuation information, please visit the Klamath County Sheriff's Office Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/KlamathSheriff> or call 541-205-9730.

We are urging the public to stay out of the fire area and off surrounding roads unless necessary. This will mitigate congestion, enhancing both public and firefighter safety.

Currently, there are 3 structural task force teams focused on structure protection near Dodds Hollow and Patricia Lane. While fire activity has lessened on the northern portion of the fire, crews continue monitoring the area.