



Eric Riener, Incident Commander, NWIMT13

Tom Clemo, Incident Commander, CAIIMT15

<b>Start date: Aug 15, 2023</b>	<b>Location: Wild Rivers Ranger District</b>	<b>Cause: Lightning</b>
<b>Acres: 45,934</b>	<b>Containment: 0%</b>	<b>Personnel: 1,227 for Complex</b>

### Smith River Complex North update for Wednesday, August 23, 2023

**Grants Pass, Ore.** – Pushed by gusty winds, the Kelly Fire spread further north into the West Fork of the Illinois River valley yesterday. In response, local firefighters and resources from the Smith River Complex North concentrated on structure protection work around Lone Mountain and Elk, Blue, Dwight, and White Creeks. Protecting structures, powerlines, and resources along Hwy 199 are a high priority for this fire.

Heavy smoke continues to hamper aerial operations. Yesterday, smoke prevented helicopters from dropping water or retardant on the north edge of the Kelly Fire. The smoke also made it difficult to monitor the fire’s spread and exact location using aircraft. Winds from the north are expected today, which should reduce smoke along the north edge of the Kelly Fire. When the smoke lifts, aerial resources are ready to support firefighters on the ground.

Resources assigned to the Complex will assist with initial attack on fires within the Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) and on the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. Currently assigned resources include seven helicopters for the Complex, nine engines, four crews, and five pieces of heavy equipment for the North, with more on order. With more resources arriving at the fire, the Smith River Complex North has added a night shift. These resources will be working overnight and monitoring the fire vicinity. They can respond quickly if there is an increase in fire activity.

Del Norte County has issued a Level 3 evacuation notice from the Oregon/California border south. Specifics of this closure can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/DelNorteOfficeOfEmergencyServices/>.

Josephine County has issued a Level 2 evacuation notice along Hwy 199 south of mile post 39 to the California border, and a Level 1 evacuation for the community of O’Brien south of Rough & Ready Creek. For more information and maps, visit the Rogue Valley Emergency Management site at <https://www.rvem.org>.

The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest has implemented an area and road closure order for the Smith River Complex. Visit the forest website for additional information <https://tinyurl.com/2s4hymku>.

Cooperatively responding agencies include the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, the Oregon Department of Forestry, BLM-Coos Bay District, BLM-Medford District, Josephine County Sheriff’s Office, Josephine County EMS, the Illinois Valley Fire Department and Curry County Sheriff’s Office.

**There will be a community meeting on Thursday, August 24 at 6:00 p.m. It will be held at the staging area across from 30159 Redwood Hwy, Cave Junction. The meeting will also be live-streamed on Facebook.**

<p><b>Smith River Complex Inciweb:</b>  <a href="https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incide.../casrf-smith-river-complex">https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incide.../casrf-smith-river-complex</a>  <a href="#">#SmithRiverComplex2023</a> <a href="#">#DelNorteCounty</a>  <a href="#">#SixRiversNationalForest</a> <a href="#">#RogueRiverSiskiyouNationalForest</a></p> <p><b>Smith River Complex North Facebook:</b>  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/smithrivercomplexnorth">https://www.facebook.com/smithrivercomplexnorth</a></p> <p>Rogue Valley Emergency Management: <a href="https://www.rvem.org">https://www.rvem.org</a></p>	<p>Josephine County Emergency Management (Get Ready Rogue): <a href="https://www.facebook.com/josephinecountyEM">https://www.facebook.com/josephinecountyEM</a>  U.S. Forest Service- Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest:  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/R6RRSNF/">https://www.facebook.com/R6RRSNF/</a>  <b>Del Norte County Sheriff’s Office:</b>  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/DelNorteCountySheriffDepartment">https://www.facebook.com/DelNorteCountySheriffDepartment</a>  <b>Del Norte Office of Emergency Services Office:</b>  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/DelNorteOfficeOfEmergencyServices">https://www.facebook.com/DelNorteOfficeOfEmergencyServices</a></p>
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