



Eric Riener, Incident Commander, NWIMT13

Tom Clemo, Incident Commander, CAIIMT15

Start date: Aug 15, 2023	Location: Wild Rivers Ranger District	Cause: Lightning
Acres: 70,716	Containment: 6 percent	Personnel: 2,661 for Complex

Smith River Complex North update for Monday, August 28, 2023

GRANTS PASS, Ore. – Saturday evening, firefighters working the night shift on the Smith River Complex North began tactical firing operations on fire lines near Gilligan Butte. Burning fuels between the fire line and the fire is a critical step in securing this line. Night shift firefighters succeeded in firing much of the line west of Gilligan Butte toward the 4402 Road.

Day shift firefighters continued this firing Sunday along the primary containment line on the south and southwest side of Gilligan Butte, reaching the 4402 Road. Currently, firefighters are conducting the same work along the 4402 Road south. These efforts help reduce fire spread that would impact homes in the southern Illinois Valley. Extensive mop-up work will be needed along these lines before they can be considered “contained.”

Smoky conditions continue to restrict aerial operations. Visibility was down to a quarter mile much of the day, making aerial operations unsafe. Firefighters on the ground also struggled with poor visibility. Winds generally from the north are predicted for the next few days and may push smoke to the south, but smoke from other fires in the Pacific Northwest is likely to adversely impact operations throughout the Smith River Complex North.

Firefighters continue to concentrate on protecting the communities and scattered structures near O’Brien and Takilma, and along Lone Mountain Road.

A Level 3 – GO NOW evacuation remains in place for the Hwy 199 area south of O’Brien from milepost 38 to the state line. A Level 2 – GET SET evacuation is in place for O’Brien and the Takilma area. A Level 1 – GET READY evacuation is in place north to Cave Junction. The American Red Cross has set up an evacuation shelter at Rogue Community College in Grants Pass. Livestock can be sheltered at the Josephine County Fairgrounds.

Due to increased fire activity, the public is encouraged to monitor the Rogue Valley Emergency Management site at <https://rvem.org> for evacuation updates and sign up for Citizen Alert if you have not already done so. An interactive Fire First Response Map showing evacuation areas can also be found there.

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 at <https://tinyurl.com/2s4hymku>. The Bureau of Land Management Coos Bay District announced an emergency closure of public lands south of Waldo Road and Happy Camp Road to the Oregon/California border. Additional information can be found at <https://www.blm.gov/orwafire>.

A community meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 28, at Illinois Valley High School, 625 E. River St., Cave Junction. The meeting will also be live-streamed on the Smith River Complex North 2023 Facebook page.

<p>Fire Information line (8 a.m. – 8 p.m.): 541-801-3495 Email: 2023.smithrivercomplex@firenet.gov Smith River Complex InciWeb: https://bit.ly/SmithRiverCxInci Smith River Complex North Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/smithrivercomplexnorth U.S. Forest Service- Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest: https://www.facebook.com/R6RRSNF/</p>	<p>Rogue Valley Emergency Management: https://www.rvem.org Del Norte County Sheriff's Office: https://www.facebook.com/DelNorteCountySheriffDepartment Del Norte County Office of Emergency Services: https://www.facebook.com/DelNorteOfficeOfEmergencyServices Bureau of Land Management: https://www.blm.gov/orwafire</p>
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