

August 18, 2023 Flat Fire Morning Update



Size: 33,895 acres
Start Date: July 15, 2023

Point of origin: 2 miles
southeast of Agness, OR

Containment: 58%
Total personnel: 590

Resources: 21 engines | 13 crews | 3 bulldozers | 20 water tenders | 7 masticators | 4 helicopters

Highlights: Southwest Incident Management Team 3 took command of the incident at 0600 today. Weather conditions are hot and dry and continuing to influence low rates of spread in the fire's interior unburned fuels. Isolated single tree torching was not unusual and did not threaten fire lines. Smoke will have intermittent impact on local communities depending on winds. Firefighting assets are watching containment lines, and paying attention to isolated heat sources. Concentration on wind and slope alignment in drainages and ridge-top winds from the NW that may induce rapid spread is a primary mission. Crews are almost finished improving containment line along roads 3680, 3318, and the dozer line to Illinois River. Deployment of several crews to support to the Six Rivers National Forest on new lightning fires south of the Oregon/California border is on-going.

Today's Activities: Visual assessments of the fire activity within the perimeter using both ground and/or aviation resources is the priority work. The 360 road into Meadow Creek drainage work is near completion. Handline was completed across Meadow Creek to the dozer line on the 365 Road. Crews are making progress improving the contingency dozer line along 3680 road with prepping, chipping, and brushing the 310-spur road. Crews will complete the contingency dozer line from the 362 road to Pistol River drainage and tie in with the handline constructed from the dozer line to the west. Air resources remain available to support initial attack efforts as required. Full suppression is the objective for the Flat Fire and firefighters continue working toward that goal.

Weather: A cooling trend with higher relative humidity will help restrict active fire behavior. Cooler temperatures will continue Friday and over the weekend. This will also allow for humidity to trend higher as well. There is a 5-10% probability of isolated showers or thunderstorms.

Smoke: Smoke may be visible from the surrounding areas. The Smoke Outlook is available at:
<https://outlooks.airfire.org/outlook/b74901f7?>

Closures: **U.S. Highway 199 has been closed north of Gasquet due to fires on the Six River National Forest, please use U.S. Route 101 to SR 42s for all travel to and from the Rogue Valley. Forest Service and BLM roads should not be used as alternate routes due to emerging fire activity.** The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (RRSNF) has issued a closure order for the fire area including trails, roads, and a portion of the Illinois River. Visit <https://bit.ly/RRSNFAlerts> for more information.

Evacuations: Level 1 "Get Ready" evacuation status in place for areas in the vicinity of the Flat Fire. Link to more information: <https://tinyurl.com/currycountym>

Restrictions: Fire danger is currently extreme; the RRSNF is implementing Level 3 Public Use Restrictions. Level 3 PURs on the Wild Section of the Rogue River have been implemented by the RRSF, Medford BLM and ODF. More information: <https://tinyurl.com/ueuznr6e>