

August 19, 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: 479

Resources: 17 engines | 13 crews | 3 bulldozers | 19 water tenders | 4 masticators | 5 helicopters

Highlights: The stated objective for the Flat Fire is full suppression and firefighters are diligently working to achieve that target. Firefighters are paying particular attention to the fire lines and isolated heat sources. The primary focus is to identify wind and slope alignment in drainages and ridge-top winds that can result in rapid fire spread. Crews have finished improving containment lines along the roads between Agness and Indigo Creek. Multiple crews are supporting the Six Rivers National Forest south of the Oregon/California border.

Today's Activities: Ground and aviation resources continue to make visual assessments of the fire activity within the perimeter. Crews have finished constructing handlines in the Pistol River drainage down to the 364 road. Improvements to the south containment lines are ongoing. Heavy fuels (logs) are being decked and removed. Firefighters will start on proposed handline to tie in road 364 improvements to the existing line to complete contingency lines. Air resources remain available to support initial attack efforts as required.

Weather: Active fire behavior has slowed in response to the cooling trend and higher relative humidity. The trend will continue Saturday and into the next week. Humidity will increase in tandem with the cooler temperatures and should aid firefighting efforts. There is a 5-10% probability of isolated showers or thunderstorms.

Smoke: Smoke may be visible from the surrounding areas. Currently, intermittent smoke is less impactful to local communities. 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/currycountyem>

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 RRSNF, Medford BLM and ODF. More information: <https://tinyurl.com/ueuznr6e>