



Six Rivers National Forest



Forest Service News Release



Public Fire Information

707-383-9727

2023.smithrivercomplex@firenet.gov

Fire Update Smith River Complex South A.M. 8/25

Start date: Aug 15, 2023	Location: Six Rivers National Forest	Cause: Lightning
Acres: 57,219	Containment: 0%	Personnel: 1,655

Gasquet, Calif., August 25, 2023. Firefighters were on high alert yesterday afternoon as the National Weather Service issued a Red Flag Warning for the fire area for a fast-moving thunderstorm system, predicted to produce dry lightning and erratic winds. Preparation efforts continued in and around the town of Gasquet throughout the day, as well as indirect line construction from the 305 road to the North Fork of the Smith River. Additionally, the indirect hand line was completed from the French Hill Road south to highway 199.

The thunderstorms arrived as predicted, bringing approximately 0.15” of rain to the weather station at the Camp Six communication site. Although wind gusts up to 35 mph arrived with the storm, they were for a short duration and the measurable rain helped keep fire activity less than what was predicted. During the gusty winds a spot fire was detected around the North Fork neighborhood but was quickly extinguished by firefighters who were patrolling the area.

Firing operations were conducted along the Highway 199 corridor in the Kelly Fire utilizing Hot Shot crews and Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS). This low intensity firefighting tactic will allow Pacific Power and Caltans access to affected areas to repair valuable infrastructure.

Low pressure lingering off the coast of Central California will help lift and push marine air inland over the complex. This will bring cooler, moister conditions with calm afternoon winds which will reduce fire behavior and spread. These favorable conditions will persist for several days into early next week to provide an extended window of beneficial weather so that firefighters will be able to work more safely and efficiently to fight the Smith River Complex fires.

Evacuations

All evacuation orders are issued by the Del Norte County Sheriff's Office. If you are in the Del Norte County, area please sign up for their [Community Alert System](#) to receive emergency notifications. Evacuation levels as of August 21, 8:00 a.m., as follows:

Level 3 “Go Now”: *Low Divide at Highway 197 from mile marker 1 to mile marker 13.* Patrick Creek, Little Jones Creek, Copper Creek Drainage, Coon Creek/ 16n19 17n07, Washington Flat, Pioneer Road, Panther Flat Campground Area, all communities between Slant Bridge Road north to the Oregon Border along Highway 199, French Hill Road.

Level 2 “Be Set”: High Divide, Rowdy Creek, Big Flat/Rock Creek

Level 1 “Be Ready”: Hiouchi from Slant Bridge to the east end of North Bank Road

Closures

Highway 197 from mile marker 1 to mile marker 13.

South Fork Road is open to *residents only*. Resident must provide *proof of residency*.

Howland Hill Road (Residents Only)

County road 316, Shelly Creek,

County Road 315 Holiday Mine

County Road 311 Old Gasquet Toll Road

County Road 305 Weimer Road

Forest Service Roads 16N19 and 17N07

U.S. Highway 199 is closed in Del Norte County from Slant Bridge Road to Oregon Mountain Road (PM 16 to 31) due to the fire activity.. A hard closure is in place on U.S. 199 at the Agriculture Station near the Oregon border. For the latest road conditions please visit quickmap.dot.ca.gov

Effective Sunday, August 20, 2023, the Six Rivers National Forest has issued a forest-wide closure order. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/srnf/notices/?cid=FSEPRD1096395>

The American Red Cross has a shelter at the Del Norte County Fairgrounds (421 US-101 N, Crescent City, CA 95531) for those displaced by evacuations. Red Cross disaster workers are partnering with local officials to help ensure evacuees receive necessities, including food, water, and shelter.

More Information

Smith River Complex Inciweb: inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/casrf-smith-river-complex

Facebook

Six River National Forest: <https://www.facebook.com/SixRiversNF>

Del Norte Office of Emergency Services: <https://www.facebook.com/DelNorteOfficeOfEmergencyServices>

Del Norte County Sheriff’s Office: <https://www.facebook.com/DelNorteCountySheriffDepartment>

Smith River Complex North: <https://www.facebook.com/smithrivercomplexnorth>

Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest: <https://www.facebook.com/R6RRSNF/>

Josephine County Emergency Management: <https://www.facebook.com/josephinecountyEM>

<https://rvem.org/> for interactive evacuation map.