

Great Basin Complex Incident Management Team #4



Bench Lake Fire Update

Friday, July 26, 2024

Contact Fire Information: 208-901-7230

Or 2024.benchrake@firenet.gov

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/sawtoothnationalforest>

InciWeb: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/idstf-bench-lake-fire>

| Start Date | Cause | Size | Percent Containment | Helicopters | Scooper Planes | Engines | Crews | Total Personnel |
|------------|-------|-------|---------------------|-------------|----------------|---------|-------|-----------------|
| 07/11/24 | Human | 2,595 | 58% | 9 | - | 12 | 8 | 341 |

Yesterday, weather conditions on the Bench Lake Fire were cooler and more humid than usual due to the storm system that moved in, which provided a wetting rain and helped to calm fire activity. Crews continued their work securing more containment, mopping up, and patrolling line. "Fire behavior may have been moderate, but we still have folks working hard and making good use of their time," said Jake Williams, Great Basin Team 4 Operations.

Crews also made progress on repairing line and trails around Bench Lakes 1 and 2 by levelling out berms, pulling slash and vegetation over the disturbed area, and narrowing trails back to their original condition. These repairs will help the forest recover from any damages caused during line construction and return to its natural state. Firefighters removed equipment used during securing line, such as hoses and pumps, around the north edge of the fire and patrolled existing containment.

Looking ahead at weather, cooler temperatures will continue through the week, with decreased humidity and breezy southwest winds in the area today. Crews will continue to be aware of hazard trees as they work in windy conditions.

Residents of Custer County are encouraged to sign up for CodeRED to receive emergency alerts. Residents can sign up for CodeRED by texting CUSTER to 99411 or enrolling online at <https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/BF28E45537FF>. Additional information about Custer County's Ready, Set, Go levels can be found on the Custer County Sheriff's Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61558947312289>.

Restrictions: The Sawtooth National Forest has initiated Stage 1 fire restrictions within the National Forest System lands boundaries on the Sawtooth and Cassia zones. Under these restrictions, campfires are allowed only in recreation sites within metal or concrete fire pits. Fires of any kind are not allowed in any dispersed camping areas.

Closures: Sawtooth National Recreation Area officials issued an expanded emergency closure for the Bench Lake Fire (0414-04-148) July 18 for the Redfish Lake recreation complex, including the lodge and associated buildings, roads, trails, trailheads, and campgrounds in the area. Highways 75 and 21 remain open. Visit <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-closures/idstf-bench-lake-fire> for a map and more details on the closure order.