Sierra National Forest

Basin Fire Update

Wednesday July 10, 2024

Public Fire Information: 559-468-6809, 8 A.M. to 6 P.M.

Media Information: 559-468-6809 (same number as public fire information)

Email: 2024.basin@firenet.gov

Facebook: @SierraNF

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PEOPLE AND EQUIPMENT: 614 personnel, 7 crews, 31 engines, 5 helicopters, and 12 dozers.

CURRENT SITUATION: Today there is no increase in acreage at **14,020** acres, and containment remains **92%**. The vegetation continues to become drier as the record-breaking heat wave continues, and the cumulative effects of heat stress challenge firefighters. Today is expected to slightly cooler with light west winds. There is a slight chance of thunderstorms on Thursday but more likely Friday and Saturday. The prolonged dry heat is making fuels more receptive, resulting in higher probabilities of ignition. Firefighters and helicopters continue to monitor the fire area.

Personnel and equipment are being released to assist with other wildfires that have been starting statewide. Firefighters continue to monitor and improve fire lines, retrieve unneeded equipment, while resource advisors and fire archaeologists guide suppression repair to mitigate damage and improve safety. An initial attack group is still available to respond to any new fires in the area.

<u>Northern perimeter</u>: Firefighters are utilizing aircraft to monitor the fire line and have seen no threat to the line in the last several days. This is the only area with open fire line

<u>Suppression Repair</u>: Fire crews and equipment are repairing the damage caused by the suppression of the fire. Water bars are being constructed to reduce erosion. Equipment and hand tools are removing hazards and repairing the fire lines to return them to as natural a state as is practical. Road access to Fence Meadow Lookout is being improved through removal of dead hazard trees. Due to the drying heat of the last few days, heavy equipment is being used with caution and may not be used at all today.

An **EXCESSIVE HEAT WARNING** remains in effect through Saturday, July 13th, although a cooling trend should start this weekend and continue until the beginning of next week. Winds are forecast to remain low, from the west at 6 to 9 mph, with gusts to 15 mph. Humidity will remain very low. The National Weather Service reports record breaking temperatures throughout the San Joaquin Valley. Air-conditioned tents and fans have been set up to help firefighters manage the intense heat.

The Basin Fire started on June 26, 2024, and the cause remains under investigation. The fire burn perimeter is at 2000-4500 feet elevation, northeast of Pine Flat Lake, west of the Spanish Mountains, south of Black Rock Rd (11S012) and north of the South Fork of the Kings River.

Updates are posted on Inciweb: https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/casnf-basin-fire.

****CHANGE****Fresno County EVACUATION ZONES: Evacuation warnings are in effect for K30, K31 and K40. All county roadblocks have been removed. Check the Fresno County Evacuation map for most current

information about the evacuation levels and safety information about returning to your home after a fire. <u>Fresno</u> County Evacuation Information

NEW FOREST CLOSURE for the Basin Fire: The Sierra National Forest has issued an updated Forest Closure Order (No. 05-15-52-24-19) that reduces the previous Forest Order by two-thirds. The current Forest Order closes 41,918 acres down from 123,707 acres for the safety of the public and our remaining firefighters. We ask the public to respect all closure signs and barriers and to avoid the area to prevent any potential accidents or interference with firefighting efforts. Please refer to the Sierra National Forest webpage at: Sierra National Forest Closure Order

NEW FIRE RESTRICTIONS The Sierra National Forest has also modified the temporary fire restrictions (Order No. 05-15-52-24) Please refer to the Sierra National Forest webpage for more information: Sierra National Forest Updated Fire Restriction or call the Sierra National Forest (559) 297-0706 during business hours for questions.