



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Sierra National Forest

Basin Fire Update

Tuesday July 9, 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](https://www.facebook.com/SierraNF)



PEOPLE AND EQUIPMENT: 689 personnel, 11 crews, 33 engines, 7 helicopters, and 13 dozers

CURRENT SITUATION: The Basin Fire remains at **14,020** acres, with no increase in acreage, and containment remains **85%**. As this record-breaking heat wave continues, the vegetation becomes drier and the cumulative effects of heat stress makes firefighting difficult. Today is expected to be 3-5 degrees cooler with light west winds and gusts of 16-18 mph. Thunderstorms are possible Thursday and more likely Friday and Saturday. The prolonged dry heat has made fuels more receptive, resulting in potential flare-ups in unburned islands within control lines, occasionally producing visible smoke. Firefighters and helicopters are keeping these flare-ups in check.

As work is completed, resources are being released to assist with other wildfires or will return to their home unit until a new assignment. 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 with two hotshot crews, a fire module, and three engines, for a total of 69 personnel, remains available to respond with local resources to any new fires in the area.

Northern perimeter: Firefighters utilizing aircraft continue to monitor the fire line and manage flare ups, while crews hike into accessible areas to patrol and improve fire lines.

Suppression Repair: Firefighters and equipment are repairing the damage caused by the suppression of the fire. Water bars are being constructed to reduce erosion. Dozers, tree fallers, masticators, and heavy logging equipment 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 made safer through removal of numerous dead hazard trees.

An **EXCESSIVE HEAT WARNING** is in effect through Saturday, July 13th, with very high day time and night time temperatures. Temperatures are forecast to reach as high as 108 degrees today, with relative humidity 15 to 20%. Winds are forecast to remain low, from the west at 6 to 9 mph, with gusts to 15 mph. The National Weather Service has reported that “A heat wave this intense, this long, has set record temperatures throughout the San Joaquin.” Air-conditioned tents and fans have been set up to help firefighters endure the intense heat.

The Basin Fire started on June 26, 2024, and the cause is currently under investigation. The fire is at 2000-4500 feet elevation, northeast of Pine Flat Lake, west of the Spanish Mountain, 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>.

Fresno County EVACUATION ZONES: The **mandatory evacuation order** remains in place **only** for Fresno County zones **K30** and **K40**. Evacuation *warnings* remain in effect for zones K29, K31, K41, and K166. Check

the Fresno County Evacuation map for information about the evacuation levels, and safety information about returning to your home after a fire.

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e7d6006a016a444db8b210ac4d2eb5cf>

FOREST CLOSURE and FIRE RESTRICTIONS for the Basin Fire: To ensure the safety of the public and our firefighters, The Sierra National Forest has issued a Temporary Partial Forest Closure Order No. 05-15-52-24-15 for the Basin Fire area. Effective July 5, 2024, the closure will remain in effect until July 31, 2024. We urge the public to respect all closure signs and barriers and to avoid the area **to prevent any potential accidents or interference with firefighting efforts.**

The Sierra National Forest has implemented temporary fire restrictions prohibiting campfires except within designated recreation sites. Operating vehicles off roads or trails is prohibited, and welding is prohibited. Smoking is only allowed in vehicles, buildings and designated recreation sites.

Visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/sierra> for more information or call the Sierra National Forest (559) 297-0706 during business hours for questions.

FOREST VISITORS: This Fire may affect YOU!!!

- The following campgrounds are CLOSED due to the Basin Fire: Bear Wallow Campground, Black Rock Campground, Gravel Flat Group Campground, Kirch Flat Campground, Kirch Flat Group Campground, Oak Flat Campground, Ross Crossing Campground, Sawmill Flat Campground, Bretz Mill Campground.

- Check <https://www.fs.usda.gov/sierra> for the Basin Fire closure area map. Roads & trails in this area on the Sierra National Forest are **CLOSED**.

- AIR QUALITY** is being impacted by Basin Fire smoke and by smoke from other fires in surrounding areas. Please check the air quality for your destination at www.airnow.gov. Today's smoke outlook for South Central California Basin is available at <https://outlooks.airfire.org/outlook/a117116c?>

- Fireworks are NOT permitted on Federal land.
- Camp safely and keep hydrated during your stay.