



Falls and Telephone Fires Update for August 10, 2024

Telephone Fire Quick Facts:

Size: 53,852 **Start Date:** July 22, 2024 **Location:** 12 miles NE of Burns, OR
Containment: 61% **Total Personnel:** 570 personnel **Cause:** Lightning/Natural
Resources Assigned: 12 hand crews, 22 engines, 4 bulldozers, 15 water tenders, 10 skidders

Falls Fire Quick Facts:

Size: 148,519 **Start Date:** July 10, 2024 **Location:** 13 Miles NW of Burns, OR
Containment: 77% **Total Personnel:** 507 **Cause:** Human-caused, under investigation
Structures Triaged: Residences: 386 / Commercial: 119 / Outbuildings: 760
Resources Assigned: 19 hand crews, 28 engines, 14 bulldozers, 8 water tenders, 4 masticators, 2 skidders

Sand Mountain Fire Quick Facts:

Size: 7,582 **Start Date:** July 25, 2024 **Location:** 17 miles SW of Seneca, OR
Containment: 52% **Total Personnel:** Staffed by Falls Fire **Cause:** Lightning/Natural

Aerial resources assigned: Two Type 1 helicopters / One Type 1 Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS)

Priorities for Saturday, August 10:

- 1) Initial Attack (IA); firefighters are ready to respond to any new fire starts
- 2) East/northeast portion of Telephone Fire
- 3) Northeast side of the Falls/Sand Fire along the 31 Road
- 4) West side of the Telephone Fire/King Mountain area

Telephone Fire: Although some portions of the Telephone Fire experienced variable winds yesterday, crews continued firing operations near the 855 and 2820 Roads on the southwest side of the earlier King Mountain spread. Crews also used UAS for aerial ignition of unburned fuels to increase containment depth and remove fuels that contribute to continued fire activity. A few small pockets of unburned fuel in Perry Meadows generated visible smoke. Today, crews are focusing on strengthening existing containment lines on the south and east portions of the fire, patrolling the fire perimeter, and extending containment lines to the northwest corner of the Telephone Fire.

Falls/Sand Mountain Fires: Yesterday, resources had ongoing success holding the burnout operations that took place over several days on the northeast corner of the Falls and Sand Mountain Fires. In the Gilbert Ridge area, firefighters continued removing hazard trees. Crews also conducted limited burn out operations on the 31 Road while conditions remained favorable. Today, firefighters will continue felling hazard trees in the 3150/3160/3170 Roads area and conducting firing operations near Crane Flats and the 3170/31 Roads. With the significant progress made over the recent shifts, crews will also focus on deepening containment lines. Given the large perimeter and ongoing critical fire weather, work is

expected to be challenging, but crews remain vigilant and committed to deepening containment lines and securing any problem areas.

Weather: Temperatures will moderate slightly, and the fire area saw good humidity recoveries overnight. Light to moderate winds are expected today. There is a low chance of thunderstorms this afternoon and could produce strong outflow winds.

Evacuations: There are no changes to the evacuation orders for Grant and Harney Counties. For the most accurate evacuation information, visit the Harney County Sheriff's evacuation map: <https://bit.ly/FallsFireEvac>, or the [Grant County Emergency Management Facebook page](#): <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068819321423>

Closures: A closure is in effect for portions of the Malheur National Forest west of 395B, north of Mt. Vernon and south of Long Creek, in the Fox Valley area, including all roads, trails, and camping within the closure area. A map of the closure is available on the Malheur National Forest website (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/malheur/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD1198892>) and in local U.S. Forest Service offices.

Investigation: The U.S. Forest Service is seeking the public's assistance with any information pertinent to the start of the Falls Fire on the Malheur National Forest. Submit any relevant information to SM.FS.R6TipHotLine@usda.gov.

Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR): TFRs in the area have been changing; pilots should check the latest information on the Federal Aviation Administration TFR website prior to flying: https://tfr.faa.gov/tfr_map_ims/html/index.html

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/p/Falls-Fire-2024-61562126623985/>

Falls Fire InciWeb: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/ormaf-falls-fire>

Telephone Fire InciWeb: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/ormaf-telephone-fire>

Fire Information Line: 541-208-4370, staffed 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. **Email:** 2024.Falls@firenet.gov

Harney County Non-emergency Evacuation Questions: 541-589-5579

Air Quality Questions: 541-573-2271. Air quality information, searchable by zip code:

<https://fire.airnow.gov/>

Smoke Outlooks: <https://outlooks.airfire.org/outlook>