



# Diamond Complex and Middle Fork Fire

## Incident Update Date: August 29, 2024



@DiamondComplex



@CAIIMT4



**Fire Information:** 541-375-0367

**Hours:** 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM

**Email:** [2024.diamondcomplex@firenet.gov](mailto:2024.diamondcomplex@firenet.gov)

**Location:** Umpqua National Forest  
Crater Lake National Park

### Incident Websites:

[inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/orupf-diamond-complex](https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/orupf-diamond-complex)

[inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/orclp-middle-fork-fire](https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/orclp-middle-fork-fire)

Our primary mission on the Diamond Complex and Middle Fork Fire is to serve the public diligently. With the safety of the public and our firefighters in mind, we are committed to addressing the needs and concerns of your communities by managing and controlling the fires to keep your forests, parks, and natural areas safe and enjoyable. Utilizing safe, yet effective firefighting suppression methods, our goal is to help you return to enjoying the outdoors.

The Diamond Complex in the Umpqua National Forest consists of 32 fires totaling approximately 11,152 acres and is 76% contained. Twenty-eight of the 32 fires in the Diamond Complex are now 100 percent contained.

The Middle Fork Fire in the northwest corner of Crater Lake National Park is 5,280 acres and is 37% contained. The fire is primarily burning within the 2015 National Creek and 2017 Spruce Lake fire scars. Throughout the fire area there is an extreme hazard to firefighters due to falling dead standing trees remaining from the 2015 and 2017 fires.

Containment of the Diamond Complex increased by three percent from yesterday to 76 percent, despite the decrease of relative humidity and dryer conditions. Lower relative humidities and higher temperatures are leading to an increase in smoke activity. Infrared flights show additional heat sources, though all remain in the fire perimeters. Fire crews continue to patrol and mop-up, locating and extinguishing areas of residual heat to the extent necessary on the fire edges. An initial attack group, comprised of hand crews, engines, dozers, water tenders, falling modules, and task force leaders are in place to swiftly respond if there any new fire starts. Excess equipment is being backhauled and relocated as needed.

### OPERATIONS:

**Middle Fork Fire:** (5,280 acres, 37% contained):

Three crews have been inserted and constructing direct fireline using minimally invasive suppression tactics (MIST) and are making forward progress. Crews continue to remove hazard trees for firefighter safety along the 230 Road and along the North Entrance Road. The north entrance to Crater Lake National Park remains closed. Infrared monitoring identified limited spread. **The park remains open.**

### Diamond Complex Fires:

**Pine Bench Fire** (North of Hwy 138 near Dry Creek, 3,990 acres, 65% contained):

Crews will be patrolling and mopping up along the fire's edge. On the northern side of the fire, in the Boulder Creek Wilderness, crews will scout the area where safe to do so and use unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) with infrared technology to evaluate and check for heat sources.

**Potter Fire** (North of Hwy 138, two miles southeast of Potter Mountain, 3,416 acres, 33% contained):

On the eastern and northern side, firefighters continue to mop up and eliminate hot spots. On the southern perimeter, firefighters will continue to construct direct and indirect line.

**Emerson Fire** (0.1 acres, 0% contained)

The Emerson has fireline around it.

**Fish Fire** (.5 acres, 0% contained)

The Fish has fireline around it.



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### **WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR:**

Today we will have elevated fire weather conditions as very dry air is spilling over the Cascade crest leading to poor recoveries on the ridges this morning. Winds will be variable this afternoon before northeast winds become dominant at the end of the day. It will remain sunny all day with relative humidities in the mid-teens to twenty percent. Overall wind speeds will remain light, with gusts peaking at 15 mph. Hot and dry weather will continue through Saturday with chance of thunderstorms developing on Sunday and Monday.

### **SMOKE OUTLOOK:**

For the most up to date information, please visit [fire.airnow.gov/](https://fire.airnow.gov/)

### **EVACUATIONS:**

None. As of August 23, 2024, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office has lifted evacuation orders for all areas.

### **FOREST CLOSURE:**

On August 27, 2024 the Forest issued an updated closure order, allowing increased access to specific roads, trails, and campgrounds that are listed as exemptions in Forest Order 06-15-24-07. For more information visit the Umpqua National Forest website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/umpqua/alerts-notice/?aid=88996>.

The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest has issued a closure for the area north and west of Crater Lake National Forest along Highway 230 south to the intersection with Highway 62. See the Closure Order and map at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/rogue-siskiyou/alerts-notice>.

### **PARK CLOSURE:**

The North Entrance Road is closed from North Junction to the park boundary at the junction with Highway 138. This closure is necessary to ensure the safety of fire crews and the public. The date for reopening is not known at this time. All other park roads will remain open, except for construction closures on East Rim Drive. Crater Lake National Park remains open and is accessible from Highway 62 on the western and southern routes. Crater Lake National Park has several closures in effect, closure orders and maps can be found at: <https://www.nps.gov/crla/learn/news/temporary-closure-of-north-entrance-road-continues.htm>

REMINDER: The Pacific Crest Trail between the Lightning Springs and Rim Trail Intersections, Bald Crater Loop, Bert Creek and Boundary Springs Trails are closed until further notice due to potentially hazardous conditions created by the Middle Fork Fire. Hikers and bikers may not use the North Entrance Road to enter or leave Crater Lake National Park.

### **LABOR DAY WEEKEND PARK INFORMATION:**

Crater Lake National Park will temporarily open the North Entrance Road for two-way travel beginning 7:00 AM Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, through Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, to accommodate visitors over the busy Labor Day Weekend.

Long lines and waits of up to 2 hours should be expected throughout the holiday weekend at both entrance stations. The South Entrance Station will be especially busy on Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, as it will be the only entrance into the park. Arriving before 10:00 AM or after 3:00 PM may reduce wait times. If the park is not your destination, please consider avoiding Highway 62 and taking an alternative route.

Please be advised that fire operations may necessitate temporary closures or delays along the North Entrance Road at any time.

Beginning at 6:00 AM Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, and continuing until further notice, the North Entrance will again be closed to all traffic to allow for hazard reduction work related to the Middle Fork Fire to resume. During this time, access to the park will be limited to the South Entrance. We recommend checking the latest conditions and road status before your visit to ensure a smooth and enjoyable experience. Updates will be available on the park website at [www.nps.gov/crla](https://www.nps.gov/crla) and on Oregon Tripcheck at [www.tripcheck.com](https://www.tripcheck.com).