



## Falls and Telephone Fires Update for Aug. 8, 2024

### Telephone Fire Quick Facts:

**Size:** 53,487      **Start Date:** July 22, 2024      **Location:** 12 miles NE of Burns, OR  
**Containment:** 59%      **Total Personnel:** 504 personnel      **Cause:** Lightning/Natural  
**Resources Assigned:** 14 hand crews, 22 engines, 4 bulldozers, 7 water tenders, 4 skidders

### Falls Fire Quick Facts:

**Size:** 147,403      **Start Date:** July 10, 2024      **Location:** 13 Miles NW of Burns, OR  
**Containment:** 76%      **Total Personnel:** 553      **Cause:** Human-caused, under investigation  
**Structures Triaged:** Residences: 386 / Commercial: 119 / Outbuildings: 760  
**Resources Assigned:** 25 hand crews, 40 engines, 17 bulldozers, 22 water tenders, 6 masticators, 11 skidders

### Sand Mountain Fire Quick Facts:

**Size:** 7,542      **Start Date:** July 25, 2024      **Location:** 17 miles SW of Seneca, OR  
**Containment:** 0%      **Total Personnel:** Staffed by Falls Fire      **Cause:** Lightning/Natural

### Other Fires Quick Facts:

Whiskey Mountain: 4,345 acres / Cow Creek: 86 acres / Parasol: 485 acres / Poison: 1,060 acres / Ritter: 461  
**Total Personnel:** Staffed by Falls Fire

**Aerial resources assigned:** Two Type 1 helicopters / One Type 1 Uncrewed Aircraft System (UAS) assigned and available to all fires in the area

### Priorities for Thursday, August 8:

- 1) Initial Attack (IA): The potential for new fire starts remains significant; firefighters are ready to respond to any new threats and remain vigilant and focused on IA.
- 2) West side of the Telephone Fire/King Mountain area
- 3) Northeast side of the Falls/Sand Fire along the 31 road

**Fire Summaries:** Low relative humidity, surface winds, and unstable air continue to drive the potential for moderate fire activity. These conditions are challenging firefighters working to deepen containment lines.

**Telephone Fire:** The Telephone Fire remained moderately active despite softer winds. The hard work of both the day and night shifts yesterday resulted in major increases in blackline. Blackline is a burned-out area of fuel that widens containment lines by ensuring there are no unburned fuels between the fire edge and the fireline. In the west, near 600 Road, work to contain spots and expand containment lines continued. Navajo Hotshots continued working to build indirect line in the area of earlier fire spread on King Mountain, making excellent progress in completing the line to 600 Road. Today, the east side of the Telephone fire is in monitor and patrol status. On the western side, crews will continue holding and deepening the containment lines.

**Falls/Sand Mountain Fires:** The northeastern portion of the Falls Fire saw the most crew activity yesterday. Crews made significant progress, conducting small-scale burning operations throughout the night and all existing spots are within dozer containment lines. A burnout operation removes unburned fuel between the containment line and the fire edge to reduce the potential for further fire activity. Burning out also allows better control over the intensity of

the fire against the containment line. With the significant progress made over the recent shifts, crews will focus on deepening containment lines today. Initial attack remains the highest priority to limit new fire activity.

**Weather:** Today, slightly cooler temperatures will prevail again today. Increasing clouds are expected and conditions will remain seasonably hot and dry with terrain driven winds in the morning. This afternoon, gusts of 20mph are possible along with increasing air instability. Looking ahead, there is an increased chance of showers and thunderstorms in the region, but that will end before the weekend.

**Evacuations:** The Harney County Sheriff's Office is again lowering evacuation levels for the Falls and Telephone Fires 2024 due to the increasing containment of the fires. Downgrading from Level 3 to Level 2 (Be Set): Zones 025C, 049B and 049C—The area east of the Telephone Fire that includes Pine Creek Road to the bottom of Stinking Water Pass on Highway 20. Refer to the map here <https://bit.ly/FallsFireEvac> for full details. Grant County Emergency Management has also reduced its Falls Fire evacuation zones. The zone South of Swamp Creek Lane and the Burns-Izee Rd. and North of the Harney County line has been downgraded to a Level 2; the zone north of the Harney County line, East of Antelope Creek and South of Logan Valley Lane has been downgraded to a Level 1.

For the most accurate evacuation information, please visit the Harney County Sheriff's evacuation map here: <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 locations within the fire closure area. Due to control and containment measures portions of the Malheur National Forest previously under the South Area Closure are now reduced. A detailed map of the closure is available on the Malheur National Forest website (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/malheur/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD1198892>) and local in U.S. Forest Service offices.

**Investigation:** U.S. Forest Service fire investigators are seeking the public's assistance with any tips or information pertinent to the start of the Falls Fire on the Malheur National Forest. Please submit any information that could assist fire investigation efforts to [SM.FS.R6TipHotLine@usda.gov](mailto: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](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](mailto: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>