



Falls and Telephone Fires Update for Aug. 7, 2024

Telephone Fire Quick Facts:

Size: 53,388 **Start Date:** July 22, 2024 **Location:** 12 miles NE of Burns, OR
Containment: 40% **Total Personnel:** 484 personnel **Cause:** Lightning/Natural
Resources Assigned: 14 hand crews, 4 engines, 2 bulldozers, 2 skidders

Falls Fire Quick Facts:

Size: 147,320 **Start Date:** July 10, 2024 **Location:** 13 Miles NW of Burns, OR
Containment: 75% **Total Personnel:** 554 **Cause:** Human-caused, under investigation
Structures Triaged: Residences: 386 / Commercial: 119 / Outbuildings: 760
Resources Assigned: 23 hand crews, 40 engines, 17 bulldozers, 24 water tenders, 6 masticators, 8 skidders

Sand Mountain Fire Quick Facts:

Size: 7,465 **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: 1,059 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 Wednesday, August 7:

- 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
- 4) Northeast side of the Telephone Fire

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 contain spot fires in some areas and increasing work on hand and dozer lines.

Telephone Fire: Winds lessened and relative humidities increased slightly Tuesday, but the Telephone Fire remained moderately active and firefighters, including 3 hotshot crews (Navajo, Wyoming, and Grand Hotshots), worked with dozers to build containment line south of King Mountain back to Trout Creek and 2820 Road. Initial attack was the highest priority to limit new fire activity and keep the fire west of the 28 Road. Today, two divisions on the eastern side of the fire will merge and resources will be adjusted to allow for increased personnel in the west near 600 Road where spotting activity continues. As our crews work along the 28 road, they are working in close partnership with the Burns Paiute Tribe to reduce the impact to values that are culturally important to the Tribe, including using specialized equipment with a lighter footprint as crews prepare shaded fuel breaks. A shaded fuel break is when a majority of, but not all, trees are removed, with 75-foot separation between trees, and surface fuels are removed to

the extent possible. These breaks are still aesthetically pleasing but have enough separation to potentially limit extreme fire behavior.

Falls/Sand Mountain Fires: The northern portion of the Falls Fire saw the most fire activity yesterday. On the northwest and west flanks of the Sand Mountain Fire, firefighters strengthened and improved fireline using crews and heavy equipment to remove fuels. Efforts focused on keeping the fire from moving north toward Izee and protecting private property, range resources and livestock. Crews working on the northeast focused on installing hose lays in and around spot fires along the 31 Road and completing indirect fireline on the 488 and 31 Roads. Indirect line is line placed away from the fire edge that takes advantage of natural and man-made barriers and allows for burn out operations, which could take place today if needed. Crews working along the southern and southwestern portions of the Falls Fire will continue monitoring and patrolling but will be assigned to initial attack if needed and will be available to move to other areas or the Telephone fire.

Weather: Today, slightly cooler temperatures will prevail, but conditions remain dry with terrain driven winds in the morning. This afternoon, gusts of 25mph are possible along with moderate air instability. Looking ahead, conditions are expected to remain seasonably hot and dry with slightly weaker afternoon winds and a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms in the region.

Evacuations: 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](https://www.facebook.com/GrantCountyEmergencyManagement) 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. Areas remain closed to protect public health and safety while fire activity and fire suppression operations continue. This closure will be effective August 6, 2024, through December 31, 2024, unless rescinded sooner. This Forest Order rescinds and replaces the previous southern area closure (06-04-00-24-17). A detailed map of the closure is included and available on the Malheur National Forest website (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/malheur/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD1198892>) and 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.

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>