



Whisky Creek and Sandstone Fires

Daily Update

August 28, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.



Whisky Creek Size: 2,084 acres | Reported Date: July 20 | Cause: Human, Under Investigation | Containment: 24%

Sandstone Size: 702 acres | Reported Date: August 5 | Cause: Lightning | Containment: 74%

Total Resources: 550 | Hand Crews: 10 | Engines: 9 | Dozers: 2 | Other Heavy Equipment: 17 | Helicopters: 4

(Odell, Ore.) -- Fire suppression efforts continue on the Whisky Creek Fire, 6 miles southeast of Cascade Locks, Ore. and the Sandstone and Blister Creek Fires, 9 miles southwest of Ripplebrook, Ore. The fires are burning in steep and rugged terrain on the Mt. Hood National Forest where rolling debris and fire-weakened trees challenge firefighting efforts. Firefighter and public safety remain the incident's top priority.

During a wildfire, incident managers identify primary and contingency lines designed to protect communities, infrastructure and other critical values at risk. Primary lines are chosen based on the highest probability of success in halting fire spread while minimizing risk to firefighters. Contingency lines serve as a backup should fire breach primary lines. In areas with complex terrain or where unconsumed fuels remain within constructed or identified lines, full containment may not be possible until a season-ending event, such as a significant rain or snowfall with prolonged cool temperatures. Continuous monitoring and regular evaluation of strategies and tactics are essential until fire managers can be reasonably certain that the fire no longer poses a threat.

Whisky Creek: Yesterday, due to slick conditions following early morning rain showers, crews were unable to complete the line along Tomlike Mountain Ridge. Mastication was completed on contingency lines to the southeast and crews continue to improve lines in these areas. Firefighters patrolled and monitored the fire's eastern containment lines while rehabilitation efforts, in coordination with Resource Advisors, were focused on areas where active fire suppression efforts were not in progress. Today, as conditions allow, crews will attempt to complete the Tomlike Mountain ridge handline, connecting it to the fire's southwestern edge. Patrols and suppression repair along the eastern perimeter will continue.

Sandstone & Blister Creek: Yesterday, on the Blister Creek Fire, a Sikorsky 61 helicopter delivered approximately 6,250 gallons of water to the uncontained southern perimeter using a larger, heavier bucket for more precise water application. Mastication and grading continued on roadways around the fires to improve access to and from both incidents. Today, chipping operations on Forest Road 70 will continue. Ground crews and aerial resources will monitor and provide support to the Blister Creek Fire as needed.

Weather and Fire Behavior: Fair weather is forecast for today with a shift to easterly winds in the afternoon, bringing increased temperatures and lower humidities. However, fuels are retaining moisture after recent rainfall and fire behavior is expected to be minimal.

Closures: The Mt. Hood National Forest, the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and Hood River County closure information can be found by scanning the QR code or following the link below. Closures are in place for the safety of the public and fire crews.

Safety: The public plays an important role in preventing the next wildfire; use caution with all ignition sources. For prevention tips visit, <https://keeporegongreen.org>. Fire restrictions are in place within the Mt. Hood National Forest. More information can be found at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/mthood/fire>. A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) is in place over both fire areas.

Smoke: Air quality conditions are forecast to be good for both fire areas. For more information on smoke conditions in your area, go to: www.AirNow.gov.

For further information about the Whisky Creek and Sandstone Fires, see the following resources:

Email: 2024.whiskycreek@firenet.gov or 2024.sandstone.or@firenet.gov

Phone: 541-208-1743, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Web: Scan the QR code or go to https://linktr.ee/whisky_creek.2024

