



Wildfire Fact Sheet

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GARDEN FIRE UPDATE OCTOBER 8, 2024

...RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT FROM NOON TO 9 PM MDT WEDNESDAY FOR GUSTY WINDS AND LOW RELATIVE HUMIDITY...

Fire Name: Garden Fire

Fire Size: 7,793 acres

Cause: lightning

Location: approximately two (2) miles southwest of the confluence of Panther Creek and the Main Salmon River on the North Fork Ranger District in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness.

Fuels: grass, brush, dead and down fuels, and timber

Resources: 135 people

InciWeb: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/idsf-garden-fire>

Fire situation: Firefighter and public safety is the number one priority for the Garden Fire. Fire managers are using a combination of full suppression and a point protection strategy (a wildfire response strategy, which protects specific assets or highly valued resources from the wildfire without directly halting the continued spread of the wildfire) to minimize exposure to fire personnel while protecting identified values, including private property and Forest Service infrastructure.

Yesterday, the inversion layer did not lift and continues to limit the use of aircraft. The fire continues to grow in the Garden Creek drainage and to the ridge to the north, towards the Salmon River. Fire is currently holding in the upper reaches of Clear Creek, however between lower Clear Creek and Dry to Bear Gulch, the fire is backing down towards Panther Creek. Due to limited visibility, fire managers are using an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) technology for infrared flights and small scale firing operations to help secure the fire's edges.

With additional resources arriving, the fire has added a night shift. Presence of firefighters, primarily in the Panther Creek and Salmon River areas continues today as crews continue to work to evaluate and assess various point protection strategies to minimize impacts to values in the area. Fire managers are scouting for opportunities to use the UAS for small scale firing operations to hold the fire above the Salmon River. Aircraft, both fixed wing and helicopters, will be used if weather and smoke conditions allow. Fire managers are continuing to look for opportunities to engage the fire direct as fuels and weather conditions change and it is safe to do so.

Evacuations: Lemhi County Law Enforcement, Emergency Management, and the Salmon-Challis National Forest have established 2 evacuation zones for the Garden Fire.

Zone 1: From Cove Creek to Ebenezer Bar, downriver along the Salmon River Road #030.

Zone 2: On Panther Creek Rd #055, a half mile south of Beaver Creek Rd #057 to the Salmon River Rd #030 confluence.

ZONE 1 is in "GO" status

ZONE 2 is in "GO" status

Information on evacuation status can be found on Lemhi County's website, <https://www.lemhicomtyidaho.org/>, under 'News and Notices.'

Weather: ...RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT FROM NOON TO 9 PM MDT WEDNESDAY FOR GUSTY WINDS AND LOW RELATIVE HUMIDITY...Dry and warm conditions will persist under high pressure with southwest upper flow warming temperatures through Wednesday. A dry cold front on Wednesday will bring increased clouds and winds with 20 to 30 mph gusts and isolated gusts in the highest terrain reaching 30 to 40 mph. A late weekend system will help to cool temperatures and gradually increase relative humidity, however measurable precipitation remains unlikely.

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