



ELEPHANT FIRE

INCIDENT UPDATE

JULY 15, 2026

Fire Information:

facebook.com/TahoeNF

2026_Elephant@firenet.gov

(530) 593-2285

Size: 13,016 Acres

Containment: 31%

Start Date & Time: July 11, 2026, 1327

Cause: Under Investigation

Location: Off Hwy 49, two miles northeast of Loyalton, Calif.

CURRENT SITUATION

Firefighters in the northeast portion of the fire focused on securing the dozer line where defensive firing operations took place. With the successful completion of this operation, firefighters will now begin to secure the fireline with mop-up and direct suppression tactics, increasing containment. Aircraft remains available to cool remaining pockets of heat, if needed.

Both acres burned and containment decreased due to improved mapping, which more accurately represents the burned and unburned portions of the interior of the fire. With unburned islands excluded from the overall acreage, the amount of perimeter to be contained has grown. For more information on how acres burned and containment are assessed, refer to NMAC Correspondence L2026-06 at

<https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/nmac>

WEATHER

A warming and drying trend is expected through Friday with breezes from west to southwest. Wind gusts and dry fuels will continue to create visual smoke production, with a small potential for showers and thunderstorms to return over the weekend.

INCIDENT HISTORY

The Elephant Fire ignited near Highway 49, northeast of Loyalton, Calif. near the Sierra and Plumas County line. It is burning primarily in grass with some snags, brush and timber. The fire is moving through the 2020 Loyalton Fire scar. Nevada IMT3 Team 1 assumed command of the incident at 2030 on July 13th.