



Southwest Area Incident Management Team

TEAM 5 – Dave Gesser– INCIDENT COMMANDER



Conditions continue to challenge firefighting efforts

Daily Update July 29, 2024

Fire Information Phone: 541-208-1768 (8am-8pm)

Media Information Phone: 541-208-1770 (8am-8pm)

Email: 2024.crazycreek@firenet.gov

Acres: Crazy Creek 16,978; 498/Kitty Creek 73

Start Date: July 22, 2024

Location: Crazy Creek: 16 miles north of Paulina, OR
498/Kitty Creek: 7 miles south of Mitchell, OR

Personnel: 302 total for both fires

Containment: Crazy Creek 0%; 498/Kitty Creek 58%

Fuels: Timber and short grass

Highlights: Crews continued work Sunday on the Crazy Creek and 498/Kitty Creek fires. On the Crazy Creek fire, firefighters observed tree torching and short-range spotting, which resulted in fire growth in the south and southwest areas of the fire. There was an overnight run of approximately three miles in the southern portion. Dry, hot conditions continue to be challenging for firefighters. The fire has pushed south beyond Forest Road 42, triggering upgraded evacuation levels in the Paulina Valley area. Crews on the 498/Kitty Creek fire continued securing and improving containment lines and conducting mop-up operations including extinguishing hot spots, felling damaged trees and cooling ash pits.

Fire Activity: On the Crazy Creek fire, crews continue to construct fire lines to contain the southwest and southern portions. Across the fire, crews continue looking for opportunities to leverage features to be used as containment lines and focusing on protecting structures in Toggle Meadow and Little Summit Prairie areas.

Firefighters in the northwest area worked from the 744 and 755 roads to the 30 Road conducting overnight firing operations to secure and improve containment lines. The southern and southwestern flanks where fire conditions are the hottest, driest and with the lowest humidity showed additional growth on Sunday,

Starting Monday, crews will assess areas to the south and southwest of the Crazy Creek Fire for structures and other values to protect. Crews on the 498/Kitty Creek Fire will continue to patrol the northern half of the fire and improve the fire perimeter on the south side to increase containment.

Evacuations: On Sunday, the Crazy Creek Fire's push south beyond FS Road 42, triggered upgraded evacuation levels in the Paulina Valley area. LEVEL 3 evacuations in the Ochoco National Forest have been expanded to the eastern boundary of Big Summit Prairie and south of the Forest boundary. LEVEL 2 evacuations now extend from the forest service boundary south to Paulina.

Weather: Monday will bring partly cloudy skies, temperatures in the 70s to 80 degrees, increasing humidity with a chance of thunderstorms with west-northwest winds 12-15 mph gusting to 25 and the potential for unpredictable outflow winds across the 498/Kitty Creek and Crazy Creek fires.

Importance of Fire Prevention: All public lands in Central Oregon, to include the Ochoco National Forest are in Public Use (Fire) Restrictions. All open flames, including woodstoves and charcoal briquette fires are prohibited. In times of high fire danger, it is crucial for everyone to follow fire prevention measures to avoid additional strain on overburdened resources. The public's cooperation in adhering to fire bans and restrictions is vital to prevent new fires from starting and to help our firefighters focus on containing the existing fires. Learn more at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/ochoco/alerts-notices/?aid=89068>.

Smoke: Smoke from multiple fires in Central Oregon are impacting the region. Additional details are available via <https://outlooks.wildlandfiresmoke.net/outlook/079f0f73>.

Fire Restrictions and Closures: The Ochoco National Forest has implemented a forest closure for the Paulina Ranger District. More information can be found at [fs.usda.gov/alerts/ochoco/alerts-notices/?aid=89203](https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/ochoco/alerts-notices/?aid=89203).

More Information:

InciWeb: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/orocf-crazy-creek>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SWIMT5>

Central Oregon Wildfire Information: <https://centraloregonfire.org/>

Crook County Emergency Information Map: <https://arcg.is/1ij0vb>