



U.S. Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
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inciweb.nwccg.gov/incident/6997/



North Complex Fire Morning Update September 16, 2020

Incident Start Date: 8/17/2020 **Size:** 273,335 acres **Containment:** 36%
Engines: 235 **Handcrews:** 90 **Dozers:** 91 **Helicopters:** 28 **Water Tenders:** 107 **Total Personnel:** 3,464
Fatalities: 15 **Structures Damaged/Destroyed:** 840

Current Situation

South Zone: Last night containment lines held due reduced fire behavior with cooler temperatures and lighter winds. Crews did have a very small sloopover on the south side of the Little Grass Valley Dam, however, they were able to contain it. Firefighters will continue focusing on reinforcing fire lines from Minerva Bar south to the Pacific Crest Trail.

Along Mooreville Ridge, crews plan to continue mop up and improve containment lines while also reinforcing bulldozer lines along LaPorte Road. Along the northeast portion of the fire containment lines are holding well. Firefighters plan to continue patrolling, backhauling equipment and initiating road repairs.

North Zone: Fire behavior continued to moderate at Red Mountain, and firefighters were successful in tying in their lines together using a small firing operation as planned. Spotting behavior is still expected to occur today in a receptively dry fuel bed in the 1999 Bucks Fire scar. Firefighters are continually monitoring the area, both on the ground and by unmanned aerial systems (drones). Crews will also be constructing and strengthening lines and prepping road systems west to Oro-Quincy Road. Firefighters will continue constructing bulldozer line by anchoring along the Oro-Quincy Road west into the Camp Fire burn scar.

West Zone: See CAL FIRE Team 4 updates at: www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2020/8/18/north-complex-fire/

Structure protection groups are in place surrounding the fire’s perimeter to protect nearby communities in both the North and South Zones. Firing operations in either zone will be dependent on weather conditions.

Twice daily video operational updates are available to watch on the Plumas National Forest Facebook Page, and once daily Zoom broadcasts of Planning and Cooperator meetings on Inciweb (links above).

Evacuations and Road Closures

Mandatory evacuation orders and advisories are in place for Butte, Plumas, and Yuba Counties. Please check your respective county’s websites and Facebook pages for the latest on evacuations and road closures.

Weather and Air Quality

Weaker winds and a smoke inversion kept fire activity slightly calmer than the previous night, however today, winds will increase again with gusts up to 25 mph on ridgelines. An increase of relative humidity is expected. Smoke is expected to clear by early afternoon with mostly sunny skies.

Smoke outlook: fires.airfire.org/outlooks/EasternSierra or www.airnow.gov/

Forest-wide closure extended: https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd804760.pdf

California Interagency Incident Management Team 4 is implementing measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in both the fire area and surrounding communities.