

For Immediate Release

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Halfway to Full Containment for the Hicks Creek Fire

Cedar City, UT – Crews have passed the halfway mark toward full containment. The focus now turns to the southern half of the fire where steep terrain and thick timber increases the danger and complexity. Those working on the southeastern edge spent the last two days preparing to box in the flames that continue to creep further east through a heavy stand of timber.

"There are upright dead and leaning trees throughout that entire stand of timber", said Incident Commander, Chris Henrie. He continued, saying, "putting firefighters into that overgrown area to build fire containment lines would be not only really dangerous, but it would be slow going work".

As the fire continues east, crews plan to stop it using a back firing operation at a road which surrounds the 200 acre piece of ground. Using fire to fight fire will meet several goals; first, it is a safer approach, second, it's far more efficient to fire from an existing barrier than to build a new one and finally, the hazardous over growth of conifer trees in the area will be reduced. The firing operation will likely begin on this afternoon in advance of lower temperatures and a possibility of rain over the weekend. An increase in visible smoke is expected.

The incident is still maintaining a force of nine hand crews and three helicopters. After Saturday's firing operation concludes, operations should begin winding down and full suppression will be in sight.

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For more information on fires in Utah visit www.utahfireinfo.gov.

Note: Get the latest fire updates on social media.

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