

Cooler Temperatures and Rain Support Oak Grove Fire Suppression

ST. GEORGE, UTAH –Following six days of fire suppression efforts, fire personnel welcomed the overnight moisture and intermittent rain that dampened fire activity on the Oak Grove Fire on the Dixie National Forest, holding it to 943 acres and an increase to sixty percent containment.

Aviation resources were sporadically hampered through the day with the weather. However, fire handcrews progressed with fireline construction to ensure that if any interior flare ups occur it will be contained within the fire perimeter. “The rains we have received have significantly helped suppression efforts, but generally it takes a combination of mixing and stirring the moisture down into surface fuels to effectively penetrate burning fuels to the point of extinction,” explained Keith Adams, acting Forest Fire Management Officer on the Dixie National Forest. Though smoke was not as visible today, it may still be visible in the days to follow. Moisture is forecasted to persist through Tuesday with gradual drying and an increase in temperature by the weekend. The Type 3 Incident Management Team is planning to transition the fire management back to the Pine Valley Ranger District later this week.

The one-quarter acre, Brown Trail Fire was declared controlled and out today following suppression actions that were assisted by the rains received in the area.

Forest roads #031, #902 and #032, #033 and the Oak Grove Campground remain temporarily closed. The forest closure order will continue until the fire danger subsides.

As fire season comes to an end, it’s a good time to start thinking about the future. Living near a fire adapted ecosystem, like much of Southern Utah, wildland fire is not a matter of *if* but *when* another fire will occur. There are actions you can take, no matter your role, to reduce your risk to the next wildfire. Make your neighborhood a fire adapted community, visit www.fireadapted.org for tips, how to’s, and resources. Be safe. Be prepared. Be Firewise at www.firewise.org.

Stay connected, visit the Dixie National Forest website at www.fs.usda.gov/dixie, like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/usfsdnf> and follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/usfsdnf for the latest information.