



Ourada's Great Basin Type 2 Incident Management Team

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Twitchell Canyon Fire Update September 17, 2010

RED FLAG WARNING

The lightning-caused Twitchell Canyon Fire is now 21,738 acres. The National Weather Service has issued a Red Flag Warning – a weather descriptor used to indicate the high probability for extreme burning conditions – for today for most of the state of Utah. Incident Meteorologist Mark Struthwolf said steady winds of 15 to 20 miles per hour, with gusts up to 30 miles per hour, could be experienced over the Twitchell Canyon Fire area. These winds are expected to remain, and possibly increase, during the weekend.

There are now nine handcrews, six helicopters, two dozers, and twelve fire engines assigned to the fire. The total number of personnel on the fire is 319.

Yesterday resources worked to limit fire spread while also preparing for the upcoming winds. A burnout operation was conducted along the I-70 corridor in order to prevent the fire from continuing north and crossing the interstate boundary. Aerial resources supported the ground crews throughout the day.

Eastbound traffic on I-70 is still restricted to one lane near the fire perimeter to provide room for crews and equipment to work. Motorists are asked to please remember that it is unsafe to stop along the interstate unless it is an emergency situation. Helicopter operations are being conducted at the head of the Max Reid Trail (Forest Road 475); however, the trail is still open. Riders should expect a short wait to get through the parking lot area. Castle Rock Campground remains under a voluntary evacuation, and the following roads and trails are closed for public and firefighter safety:

- Forest Road 119 Indian Creek Road at Pole Creek Junction (Forest Road 589).
- Forest Road 114 Shingle Creek Road intersection with the Paiute Trail Mud Flat Road (Forest Road 583).
- Forest Road 113 Mill Creek Road (Kimberly) from Mud Springs (junction of Forest Road 116 Sevier Canyon Road) to Kimberly Junction, where it meets the Max Reid Trail.

For more information, maps, and pictures on this and other fires, please visit www.utahfireinfo.gov or www.inciweb.org.

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