



Ourada's Great Basin Type 2 Incident Management Team

Contact: Fire Information (435) 527-3727

Twitchell Canyon Fire Update September 19, 2010

RED FLAG WARNING

The Twitchell Canyon Fire is now 22,788 acres. For the third day in a row, the National Weather Service is continuing its issuance of a Red Flag Warning – a weather descriptor used to indicate the high probability for extreme burning conditions – for the fire area. This Warning is expected to last into Monday now as well.

There are now fifteen handcrews, six helicopters, two dozers, and sixteen fire engines assigned to the fire. The total number of personnel on the fire is 505. Winds were much calmer yesterday than predicted, which moderated fire behavior and allowed crews a chance to secure the eastern flank of the fire in preparation for the strong winds. Today they will continue directly lining the fire perimeter in Twitchell Canyon and will also work to control fire spread in Mill Creek Canyon. Contingency plans are in place to protect the I-70 and transmission line corridors if the fire should move quickly to the north. A control line is being built on the west corner of the fire to check fire progression toward private property in the event the fire moves quickly in that direction.

Smoke will likely linger in the valley throughout the week. Morning inversions will occur in the canyons in particular but possibly throughout the Sevier Valley. Those who are sensitive to smoke are reminded to limit their exposure by staying indoors, closing windows, and avoiding strenuous activities.

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.
- Forest Road 591 North Fork North Creek at the intersection with Tanner Hollow Road (Forest Road 654).
- Forest Road 589 Drag Hollow Road where it intersects with Hell Canyon Road (Forest Road 520).

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

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