



## August Complex Fire Update Northwest and Northeast Zones October 15, 2020

**Northeast Zone Incident Commander: Tony DeMasters**  
**Northwest Zone Incident Commander: Evans Kuo**

**Start Date:** 8/17/2020      **Location:** Shasta-Trinity NF; Six Rivers NF; Mendocino NF      **Cause:** Lightning  
**Fire Size (All Zones):** 1,029,605      **Containment:** 77%      **Personnel (All Zones):** 3,130

**Weather:** A Red Flag Weather Warning for the August Complex continues today, and the strongest winds are expected to occur over the fire this afternoon and evening. Gusty NE winds to 30 mph, relative humidity in the low teens and low overnight humidity recovery are expected. Fire activity will increase with predicted weather. Strong and gusty winds will increase potential for dead trees to fall, resulting in additional hazards to firefighters.

**Northeast Zone** – Strong winds near Progeny resulted in active flanking fire and kept firefighters busy through the afternoon yesterday holding firelines and using helicopters to suppress fire with water drops. Brushing and chipping on contingency lines north of Progeny in South Fork Trinity is expected to be complete in the next few days. In Beegum Creek, hand crews secured and mopped up perimeter line around the small spot fire at the eastern edge of the fire with assistance from helicopters. Hotshot crews continued hot spotting in the 2017 Buck Fire scar and evaluated firefighting equipment ready for backhaul.

Northeast winds today will push most fire activity back into the main fire area. Firefighters continue to engage and fortify firelines near Progeny, Bear Wallow Mountain, South Fork Trinity River and Beegum Creek. Helicopters will focus water drops in Progeny and Little Bear Wallow Creek west of Irish Mountain to keep fire from moving out of the drainage. Cal Trans will start Hwy 36 guard rail repair and hazard tree removal in the vicinity of Forest Glen today. This work will take numerous days.

**Northwest Zone** – This morning Great Basin Team 1 assumed command of a portion of the West and South zones, just south of Kettenpom. This part of the fire is fully contained, and Team 1 is evaluating the area for fire suppression repair needs.

Yesterday hand crews and heavy equipment continued to improve containment lines along the fire's edge in anticipation of today's weather event. Near Ruth Lake and the Mad River Road, crews began removing hose lays and other structure protection measures along secured containment line.

Today firefighters will focus on holding unsecure line near the Lassic Fire scar on the West Fork Van Duzen River and further south near Bradburn Creek and Little Round Mountain. Wind alignment within Bradburn Creek and islands of unburned fuel has the potential to become active. The potential for spotting in the West Fork of the Van Duzen River is of concern. Should fire spread along the south side of the river, alignment of wind and terrain could result in uphill runs and torching. As safety allows, crews will begin snagging operations on the 502 Road from Zenia northward towards Ruth Lake.

PG&E will de-energize parts of their system today to reduce the possibility of additional ignitions due to line or equipment failures. The utility company has advised that Humboldt and Trinity Counties customers can expect to lose power today at 4 p.m.

**Evacuations and Closures** – Evacuation information can be found on county websites referenced below or on inciweb <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/article/6983/57937/>. Hwy 36 remains closed from Southfork Summit Mountain east to the Hwy 3 intersection. Hunting and recreation are prohibited within the August Complex Fire Closure areas. Safety hazards in the area include unstable trees that may fall, loose rocks and boulders, burning stumps; and deep ash pits.

**Trinity County evacuation Information**, contact: 530-276-8034 or <https://www.facebook.com/TrinityCoOES/> .

**Trinity County Private Property Damage Assessment Info.**, contact: 530-623-8223 or <https://www.trinitycounty.org/recovery>

**Humboldt County evacuation Information**, contact: 707-268-2500 or visit: [HumboldtCoSheriff](https://www.humboldtco.org/sheriff/) .

**Road Closures:** For updated Road Closure information, visit Caltrans at <https://roads.dot.ca.gov/>.

**Forest Closures are still in effect and can be found here:**

- Shasta-Trinity National Forest: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/stnf/forestorders>
- Mendocino National Forest: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/mendocino/alerts-notices>
- Six Rivers National Forest: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/srnf/alerts-notices>

**Northwest Fire Information:** (707)-867-0965  
**Email:** [2020.Elkhorn@firenet.gov](mailto:2020.Elkhorn@firenet.gov)

**Northeast Fire Information:** (530) 628-0039  
[inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6983/](https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6983/)