



August Complex Fire Update Northwest and Northeast Zones October 8, 2020

Northwest Zone Incident Commander: Rob Allen

Northeast Zone Incident Commander: Tony DeMasters

Start Date: 8/17/2020 **Location:** Shasta-Trinity NF; Six Rivers NF; Mendocino NF **Cause:** Lightning
Fire Size (All Zones): 1,017,546 **Containment:** 62% **Personnel (All Zones):** 4,799

(Eureka, CA) – The August Complex is divided into four zones: Northwest, Northeast, South and West. Southwest winds are favorable in the Northwest Zone, pushing the fire back on itself. The Northeast Zone is monitoring and watching lines closely as winds come through. Temps will lower and relative humidity will increase in the coming days with a chance of rain on Saturday.

Northwest Zone – Structure protection groups worked in the Ruth Lake and South Fork Trinity River areas yesterday. Crews continued to hold dozer lines east of Hwy (SR) 36 to South Fork Ridge. Firefighters worked to improve containment and contingency lines from Ruth Lake through the Gobbler and Lassic Fires burn scars to below Mule Ridge, with firing operations to eliminate unburned fuels between constructed lines and edge of the fire. Crews worked diligently to improve and build lines from Coffee Pot to Kettenpom. The smoke lifted yesterday, allowing for helicopter water drops near Eel River.

Today, firefighters are monitoring and patrolling lines around the Ruth Lake area, including north of Journey's End. Structure groups continue to work in Ruth Lake and South Trinity River areas. Fire personnel are constructing direct line from west of Van Duzen to Mule Ridge. With some fire activity in the old Lassics Fire footprint, crews in the area are focusing on improving lines from Coffee Pot north to Goat Hill and up to Mule Ridge. Aviation support will help crews in this area tomorrow.

Effective 10/08/2020 at 1000 hours Trinity County Sheriff's Office plans to lift the evacuation order and place the communities of Van Duzen and Mad River under an Evacuation Warning. The Highway 36 road closure at the Humboldt County Line will be moved east to Highway 36 and the Mad River Road. The Van Duzen Road south to the Van Duzen River bridge will be placed under an evacuation warning with a hard closure located at the Van Duzen River Bridge on the Van Duzen Road. Highway 36 east of the Mad River Road to Highway 3 will remain on a hard closure. The Mad River Road South of Highway 36 will remain on a hard closure.

All other orders and closures remain in place.

Northeast Zone – Firefighters on Wednesday dealt with more active fire behavior in some locations due to clearer skies in the afternoon and low humidity. The area of the fire south of Irish Mountain and west of Copper Hill was especially active as the decrease in cloud and smoke cover warmed the highly combustible vegetation. Existing dozer and hand lines south of Post Mountain held well despite the weather change. Throughout this area, firefighters are mopping up and holding the fire along containment lines. Utility companies are hard at work inspecting and repairing infrastructure along Route 36, an effort expected to last several days.

Fire crews made good progress in constructing hand line directly around the fire perimeter in the Middle Fork of Beegum Creek near Round Mountain and utilized helicopters to drop retardant along the southern portion of the fire. North of this area along Hwy 36, firefighters have been completing structure protection, installing hose lays, and other efforts to safeguard communities. Today's operations will include the contributions of the newly arrived 250-person, U.S. Marines Corps Engineer Support Battalion from Camp Pendleton. The Marine Corps will strengthen the ability of firefighters to contain the fire.

For Trinity County Evacuation, please contact: 530-276-8034 or visit: trinitycounty.org/OES

For Humboldt County Evacuation, please contact: 707-268-2500 or visit: humboldtsheriff.org

Road Closures:

Rattlesnake Road at SR 3; Post Mountain Road at SR 3; SR 36 from Humboldt County Line to SR3; Zenia Bluffs Road at Humboldt County Line; Zenia Lake Mountain Road at Peaks Road; Kekawaka Creek Road to Mendocino County Line

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

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