



Sequoia Complex (#SQFComplex) Fire Update

Sequoia and Inyo National Forests

September 11, 2020

Northern Rockies Incident Management Team 1

Mike Goicoechea, Incident Commander



Fire Information: 559-697-5148, 8 AM-8 PM

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Website: inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7048/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SequoiaNF www.facebook.com/inyonf

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TulareCountyFireDepartment

Twitter: [@sequoiaforest](https://twitter.com/sequoiaforest) and [@Inyo_NF](https://twitter.com/Inyo_NF)

The Sequoia Complex now has an **Interactive Fire Map** -

<https://tinyurl.com/yxfb58w9>. This map can be used to measure the distance between the current fire perimeter and nearby communities.

Sequoia (#SQF) Complex: The 68,093 acre complex includes the 67,516 acre Castle Fire and the 577 acre Shotgun fire.

| Incident Statistics | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Location: | 25 miles N of Kernville, CA |
| Date of origin: | 8/19/20 Cause: Lightning |
| Size: | 68,093 acres Containment: 12% |
| Cost: | \$18.3 million Injuries: 12 |
| Civilians evacuated: | 1,433 |
| Structures threatened: | 838 |
| Structures destroyed: | 1 |
| Resources | |
| Hand Crews: | 12 Engines: 49 |
| Water-tenders: | 19 Dozers: 8 |
| Helicopters: | 8 Personnel: 796 |

Castle Fire: On Thursday, crews began the first full day of actively constructing the indirect line that will be critical to secure the western edge of the fire. Anchor points are being established on the northern and southern points of this edge with the primary mission of protecting local communities. Fire retardant was used to bolster fire containment lines in this area. Containment line on the ground was established from Mountaineer Creek near the 2017 Lion Fire scar south towards Golden Trout Pack Station, where firing operations began later in the afternoon. In the Freeman Creek Grove, low intensity fire continues to move through the area. Further south on the western edge, crews and heavy equipment worked to piece together line east of Quaker Meadow towards The Needles.

Firefighters were able to build direct line between Little Horse Meadows and Lion Meadows, on the south side of the eastern finger of fire. On the northernmost point of the fire, an aerial assessment was completed between the Sequoia National Park and the Inyo National Forest. There has been little growth of the fire in the Inyo National Forest in the past several days. Structure assessment continued in Long Canyon. Aerial reconnaissance was completed on all areas of the fire that have shown containment to ensure that lines are holding.

Today, crews plan to methodically use hand ignition and aerial firing operations to create a low intensity fire in the northwest corner. Once completed, this operation will produce a solid anchor for firefighters. This indirect fire line will proceed south to Log Cabin Meadow. Firefighters will work from Freeman Creek Grove south and east towards 22S82. Structure protection crews continue to provide support to indirect line construction as well as providing structure protection in Alpine Village and Camp Nelson.

If conditions warrant, firing may occur today along the south side of the fire finger between Little Horse Meadows and Lion Meadows. As the "box" around this finger shrinks, firefighters will have the opportunity to construct more direct fireline. Backcountry structure protection continues in Long Canyon. A fire module of ten people will be inserted on the north point of the fire, near Sequoia National Park. They will begin a planned two day operation of providing structure protection, including to the Kern River Station.

Shotgun Fire: The fire is 577 acres and continues to exhibit low intensity surface fire in sparse fuel. The fire will continue to be monitored by air and resources will be sent for protection of the Quinn Patrol Cabin if necessary.

Weather: Upper level high pressure ridging and diurnally driven winds will prevail across the fire area on Friday. Warming temperatures will also return through the weekend with clear skies and temperatures in the 80s and 90s.

Smoke: The Kern River Valley is receiving smoke from multiple wildfires in southern California and is anticipated to remain through the day. For more information on current air quality, visit: <https://fire.airnow.gov/>.

Structures: It was discovered that one structure was lost, the USFS cabin at Grey Meadow was destroyed by the fire.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks remains open. The Generals Highway, the main road through the parks, is open at this time allowing visitors access to the giant sequoias in both Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Due to area wildfires, parts of the southern Sequoia - Kings Canyon Wilderness in Sequoia National Park are closed. The closed area is focused on the Kern River Canyon. Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/y3q9x5l8> for current conditions in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

Evacuations and Closures:

- **Evacuation Orders** from the Tulare County Sheriff are in effect for the following communities: Camp Nelson, Coy Flat, Mountain Aire, Pierpoint, and points between (issued 9/6/20), Alpine Village, Sequoia Crest and Redwood Drive (issued 9/4/20), Ponderosa, Cedar Slope, Pyles Camp, and points between (8/28/20). An **Evacuation Warning** is in place for Doyle Springs.
- For assistance with evacuation, contact the Red-Cross at 1-800-RED-CROSS or <https://tinyurl.com/yafetgkj>
- Tulare County residents are encouraged to **sign up for emergency notifications** at alerttc.com
- **Park and Campgrounds closures:** Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest; Tulare County's Balch Park Campground; and all the campgrounds within the Sequoia and Inyo National Forests.
- All National Forests in California are [currently closed](#) as of September 9, 2020.
- Current conditions in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park may be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/y3q9x5l8>.
- The current Temporary Flight Restriction for the Sequoia Complex may be found by [clicking here](#). The use of drones over the fire is also prohibited.

Priorities include: Communities listed in the above evacuation orders, Casa Vieja, Blackrock Ranger Station, Rogers Camp, Beach Meadows, Monache Meadows, structures along the Lloyd Meadows Road, Freeman Grove, the President George H.W. Bush Tree, Camp Whitsett, archeological values, Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog and Little Kern Golden Trout Critical Habitats, Pacific Fisher habitats, OSA, Beach, and Beck Meadows, trailheads and facilities.

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