



Joint News Release

Bureau of Land Management Medford District

Oregon Department of Forestry Southwest Oregon District

Oregon Department of Forestry
Southwest Oregon District
5286 Table Rock Rd.
Central Point, OR 97502

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

Contact: Samantha Kadera
(541) 621-4005, samantha.kadera@odf.oregon.gov

Firefighters line 70% of Fielder Mountain Fire overnight; ODF Incident Management Team 1 mobilizing

ROGUE RIVER, Ore. (August 14, 2026) – Following an aggressive air and ground attack Thursday, firefighters worked overnight to build hand and dozer line, completing line around approximately 70% of the Fielder Mountain Fire. The fire is estimated at 550 acres and is currently 0% contained. Crews are using dozers where terrain allows and constructing hand line in steep areas inaccessible to heavy equipment, while hose lays progress uphill to support suppression operations.

Around 1 a.m. Friday, firefighters observed a decrease in fire behavior as temperatures cooled, relative humidity increased and winds became less gusty. This provided better conditions for crews working the fire after Thursday's hot, windy conditions and active spotting.

With warm and gusty conditions expected again today, the primary objective is to complete line around the fire while strengthening existing line and extending hose farther uphill.

Today's aviation resources include four Type 1 helicopters, three Type 2 helicopters, one Type 3 helicopter and two Air Attack platforms. Ground resources include ten 20-person hand crews, ten Type 6 engines, five water tenders, five dozers, two single-resource fallers (SFALs) and one falling module (FMOD). No structures have been reported lost at this time, and a structural task force is assigned to the incident today.

ODF Incident Management Team 1 was ordered Thursday due to the complexity of the incident and fire behavior. The team will arrive this afternoon for a briefing and assume command at 6 p.m., freeing up Southwest Oregon District resources for new initial attack incidents, particularly with thunderstorm chances in the coming days.

The Fielder Mountain Fire began shortly after 3 p.m. Thursday, August 13, ODF Southwest Oregon District, Rogue River Fire District, Grants Pass Fire Rescue and Rural Metro Fire were dispatched to reports of grass fires along northbound Interstate 5 near Mile Marker 51. Initial reports indicated tires on a semi-truck were on fire and flames had spread to nearby vegetation. The official cause remains under investigation.

Firefighters maintained an aggressive air and ground attack throughout Thursday afternoon and evening despite hot, windy conditions, steep terrain and spot fires. Numerous agencies from across the Rogue Valley and surrounding areas responded, including ODF, US Wildland Fire Service, Rogue River Fire District, Rural Metro Fire, Grants Pass Fire Rescue, Jacksonville Fire, Ashland Fire & Rescue, Illinois Valley Fire District, Jackson County Fire District 5, Jackson County Fire District 3, Jackson County Fire District 1, Medford Fire, and Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

Multiple Level 1 (BE READY), Level 2 (BE SET) and Level 3 (GO NOW) evacuation notices were issued Thursday and remain in place in Jackson and Josephine counties. Residents should continue checking readyjacksonco.com for the latest evacuation information and maps.

An evacuation shelter for people and pets is available at North Middle School, 1725 NW Highland Ave., Grants Pass. Individuals needing additional medical care or assistance can call 541-776-7206. A livestock shelter is available at Jackson County Expo, 21 Peninger Road, Central Point. For livestock assistance, call 541-864-0546.

The public is asked to avoid the fire area and give firefighters and emergency vehicles room to work. The next update is expected midday, with additional updates provided as conditions warrant.

For more information, including current fire regulations, visit our Facebook page, @ODFSouthwest, or our website, www.swofire.com.

###