



United States Department of Agriculture

U.S. Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
Sierra National Forest
1600 Tollhouse RD
Clovis, CA 93611
(559) 297-0706
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/sierra/>



Creek Fire Morning Update November 1, 2020

Incident Commander – Ed Sanford

Incident Start Date: Sept. 4, 2020; **Cause:** Under Investigation; **Acres:** 380,345; **Containment:** 70%

Expected Full Containment Date: 11/15/2020; **Engines:** 15; **Hand Crews:** 19 **Dozers:** 9; **Helicopters:** 6; **Water Tenders:** 35;

Total Personnel: 961; **Firefighter injuries:** 26; **Structures threatened:** 105; **Structures Destroyed:** 853; **Structures Damaged:** 64

Fire Activity: Warm, dry conditions persisted over the fire with high temperatures near 70 degrees and relative humidities in the upper single digits to mid-teens. The northeast portion of the fire around Vermillion Cliffs north of Lake Thomas A. Edison and the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River continues to be the most active. The majority of activity is confined by large expanses of exposed rock and fire managers are monitoring the areas closely. “The fire is not spreading actively but right now there’s still lots of potential for this fire to stand up and move around with winds coming,” said fire behavior analyst Byron Kimball, alluding to winds forecast to accompany a cold front expected to move into the area late next week. Heat and active fire was detected by infrared flights on the east end of Lake Thomas A. Edison and hotshot crews are working to secure and mop up that area. A crew hiked into a hot spot discovered Friday about 1 mile outside the control line on the west side of the fire in the vicinity of Little Shuteye Peak northeast of Bass Lake. The spot was about 100-feet-by-100 feet and is believed to be the result of a wind event early last week that has been smoldering and finally emerged. Firefighters dug a handline around the spot and will mop it up today. The spot fire outside the control line is a watch-out situation, said Alaska Interagency Incident Management Team Incident Commander Ed Sanford. “It’s easy to fight fire pointing at a map but until you get boots on the ground and see what the risks and challenges are and what work needs to be done you don’t know what you’re looking at.”

Suppression Repair: A growing army of heavy equipment is working to repair and rehabilitate almost 600 miles of fire lines constructed during suppression efforts over the past two months, approximately 350 of which are dozer line. Most of the work currently is being done on the west and south sides of the fire. The fleet of heavy iron chugging away on repair work includes 16 excavators, 10 masticators, 9 dozers, 8 skidgines, 5 graders, 3 chippers, 2 feller bunchers and 1 backhoe. Multiple tree falling modules and heavy equipment are being used to remove countless hazard trees along roads and in campgrounds.

Weather: Unseasonably warm, dry conditions will persist over the fire the next four to five days. A cold front forecast to move into the area late next week will be preceded by gusty southwest winds. While maximum temperatures are expected to drop into the 40s and 50s, the winds could be problematic given the extremely dry conditions.

Sierra National Forest Closures: For information on the Forest closure order, go to <https://www.fs.usda.gov/sierra/>

Incweb: inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7147/ **Twitter:** @Sierra_NF / **Facebook:** @sierranationalforest

Fire Information Line: 559-549-3781 (8 am to 9 pm daily)

2020.creek@firenet.gov

The Alaska Incident Management Team is implementing measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in both the fire area and surrounding communities.

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