



North Pass Fire Update

August 22, 2012

On Scene Contact: Ralph Gonzales, Fire Information Officer (951) 295-6576
CAL FIRE Information Line: (707) 456-1810

Fire Status: Active

Location: 10 Miles NE of Covelo – Williams Valley

Cause: Lightning

Percent Contained: 11%

Date Started: August 18, 2012 (2:47 a.m.)

Expected Containment Date: 9/5/12

Size: 11,646 acres

Resources: Hand crews: 26
Helicopters: 3
Fixed Wing: 3

Engines: 62
Dozers: 26
Water Tenders: 21

Total personnel assigned to fire: 878

The **Pass Fire** started on Saturday August 18, 2012 at approximately 2:47 a.m. This fire is now designated as the North Pass Fire. The fire is in Williams Valley 10 miles north east of Covelo. The fire is actively burning in heavy timber moving north, east, and south into the Yolla Bolly Middle Eel Wilderness. Structures are threatened on Indian Dick Road near Covelo and Round Valley Indian Reservation. Extreme fire behavior (crowning, torching and long range spotting) have been observed in the afternoons. Firefighters both on the ground and in the air are actively fighting the fire with 878 people committed to that effort. Firefighters continue to establish and improve fire perimeter while defending structures.

Incident Priorities:

- To provide for public and firefighter safety.*
- Maintain effective communications with Communities and County Officials.*
- Keep Fire North of FH 7 (Mendocino Pass Rd.)*
- Keep Fire West of Middle Fork of the Eel River.*
- Keep Fire South of Hulls Creek and Chert Creek.*
- Keep Fire East of Murphy Creek on Round Valley Indian Reservation Lands.*

Weather, Fire Behavior and smoke Conditions:

High temperatures, low humidity, wind and topography remain a concern for increased fire activity.

Mandatory Evacuation Order: For all residences in the Indian Dick Road (USFS Road M1), Mendocino Pass Road (FH7), and Blands Cove Road areas. This order also includes all residences and USFS campsites at Howard Lake Campground, Little Doe Campground, and Hammerhorn Lake Campground.

For Housing Assistance Contact Jennifer Jones with the American Red Cross at (707) 577-7609.

Area, Road and Trail Closures:

Blands Cove Road and Indian Dick Road (M1) will be closed to non-emergency traffic. The fire closure area boundary begins at the intersection of the Middle Fork of the Eel River and the Forest boundary, then continues north along the Middle Fork of the Eel River to a point ½ mile south of Henthorne Lake, then continues due west to its intersection with the Forest boundary, then continues south along the forest boundary back to the starting point.

Closure includes Ham Pass/Blands Cove Road at Travelers' Home Trail head, Travelers' Home Trail and Stick Lake Trail.

Mike Wakoski, Incident Commander – USFS

Norm Brown, Incident Commander – CAL FIRE