

NEWS RELEASE

Sierra National Forest



For Immediate Release

Date: July 27th, 2015 8:00 AM

Willow Fire **Location:** Northeast of North Fork, Bass Lake Ranger District, in the Sierra National Forest.

Acres Burned: 1,521 **Structures Threatened:** 450

Containment: 5% **Structures Destroyed:** 0

Fire Started: July 25th, 2015 **Injuries:** 0

Cause: Under investigation

Total personnel assigned to the Fire: 785

Summary

Fire crews will continue to build containment lines on all sides of the fire using direct and indirect strategies. The fire is in steep and rugged terrain, which requires hand crews hiking in and being supported by helicopters and air tankers. A strong high pressure system is expected to move into the area starting today. High temperatures are expected over the fire area over the next few days associated with the weather system.

As the Willow Fire continues to burn, smoke will be impacting local communities. Smoke is typically greater in the morning and evening hours. Plan outdoor activities for times and places with low smoke levels. Up-slope breezes occur during the day, which will often take smoke into higher elevations. In the evening, these winds change direction and bring smoke down slope to lower elevations. For more information about smoke impacts, please visit the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Districts website at: <http://valleyair.org/wildfires.htm>

The South Central Sierra Interagency Incident Management Team officially took over command yesterday evening. A Willow Fire information phone number has been established for further information about the fire. That number is (559) 877-4779.

Evacuations

- The Central Camp area was evacuated due to the fire.
- The American Red Cross has set up an evacuation center and is located at the Oakhurst Community Center, 39800 Road 425 B in Oakhurst, CA.

Closures

- Road 274 between North Fork and Bass Lake and Willow Canyon Road remain closed until further notice.
- Gagges and Whiskers campgrounds are closed.



South Central Sierra Interagency Incident Management Team

Fire Information: (559) 877-4779

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For additional information visit: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4413/>