



Tie Canyon Fire Joint Press Release

For Immediate Release

August 28, 2016

9:00 am



Victor, ID – After two days of hard work by firefighters, the Fire is now 44% contained. An infra-red flight took place over the fire last night to detect hot spots and assess where the fire's perimeter is. Due to more accurate mapping, the number of acres the fire has burned across was reduced to 986 acres.

Gusty winds are again in the forecast today. Bright sunny skies will increase the temperature and may contribute to increased fire activity this afternoon. Crews are repairing containment line along the northern flank of the fire, while also monitoring fire behavior. Interior tree torching and smoldering will continue to produce smoky conditions.

The southeastern and southern flanks are holding the most heat and are the focal points for fire activity. Helicopters, airtankers, handcrews and engines are working together to deliver water and to construct direct containment line to pinch off the fire's growth. Along the southern perimeter of the fire, we expect additional acres to be consumed given the wind direction and topography favorable to the fire. Thick dead and down timber is burning, which requires firefighters to use saws to cut a line through the woods. Helicopters will support firefighters by providing water drops as they continue this demanding work.

For firefighters trained to keep one foot in the blackened area at all times for safety, it is advantageous to see the fire burning in the interior and stopping at containment lines. The blackened area provides a wider buffer for firefighters to work in, which is an added layer of security for them. In addition to providing a safer area for firefighters, as the fire consumes the forest floor, it is also recycling nutrients that will provide forage for wildlife next spring.

Once firefighters, law enforcement and the Forest feel it is safe, the Level 1 evacuation notice will be lifted. This wind test is necessary to provide fire managers with a good litmus test to ensure it is safe to remove the evacuation notice. The wind is forecasted to last through the weekend. It will be lifted as soon as possible.

Lastly, camp crews have been hard at work setting up the Incident Command Post. Power and phone lines have been installed, and additional equipment is arriving, making camp fully operational. Starting Monday, visitors interested in seeing the Post and learning about how an incident management team supports firefighters may request a tour of camp. Please call the fire information line for more information.

Highway 31 is open however, when possible travelers are asked to find an alternative route due to low visibility on Pine Creek Pass and heavy fire traffic. A new helibase near Swan Valley will be visible from Hwy 31. Please use caution when driving along this stretch of the highway as aircraft movement is very distracting

to drivers.

Much of the smoke drifting in is from the Pioneer Fire, burning eight miles north of Idaho City, Idaho. Numerous fires burning on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest and Yellowstone National Park are also producing smoke. To view smoke information, visit the Idaho Smoke Blog spot at:

<http://idsmoke.blogspot.com>

Evacuations In Effect: No mandatory evacuations are in effect. A Level One evacuation notice is in effect for residents and property owners south of 10000 South; east of Highway 31, west of 1000 West (Pole Canyon Road) and west of Highway 31, south of 9000 South.

Area/Trail Closures: A Tie Canyon Fire Area Closure is in effect. This includes areas west of Pole Canyon, Tie Canyon Road 252 and Upper Rainey Creek Road 253. To view a map of this area closure, visit:

http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/photos/IDCTF/2016-08-24-1620-Tie-Canyon-Fire/related_files/pict20160726-155651-0.jpeg

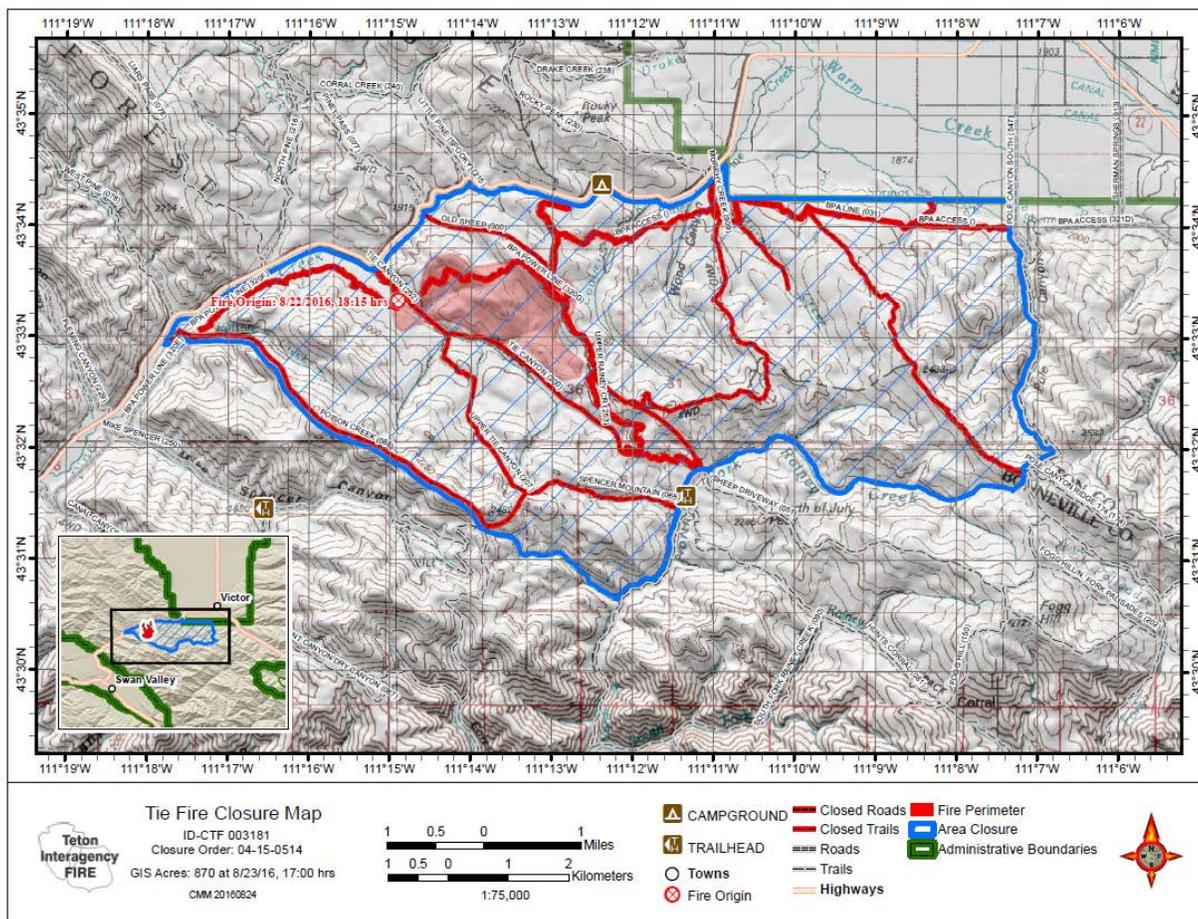
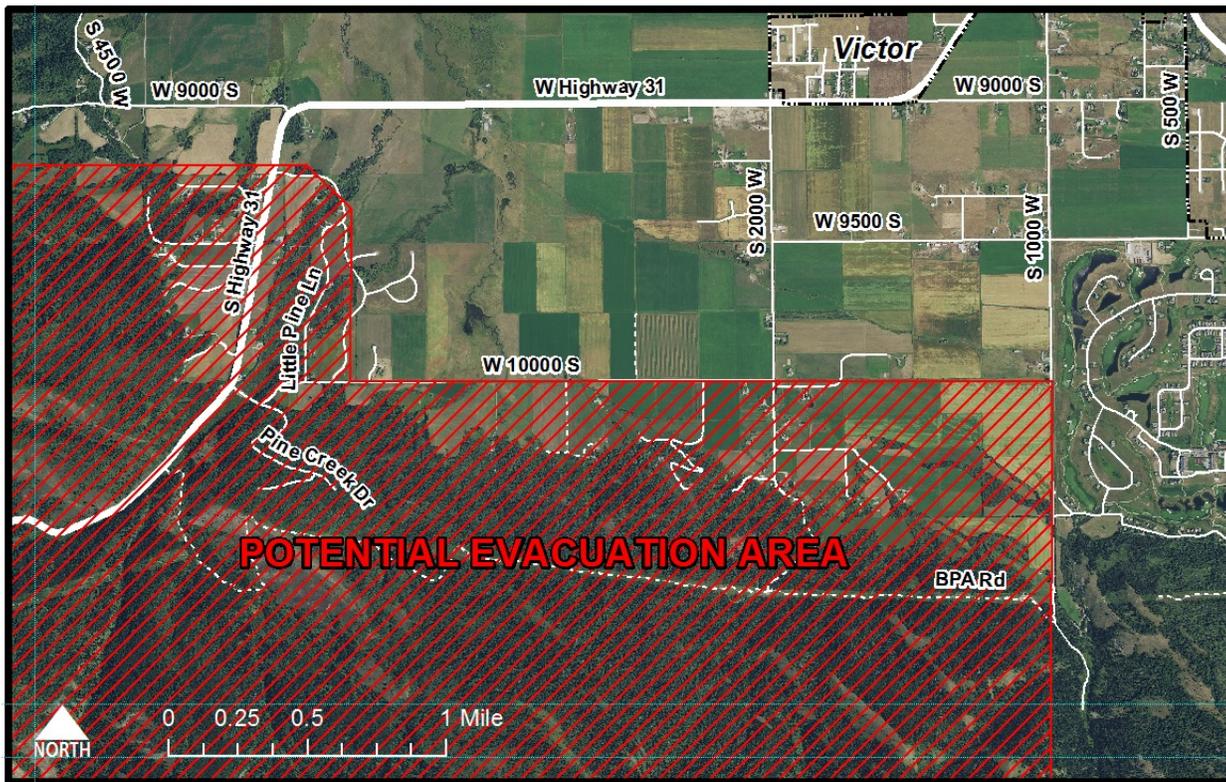


Photo of water tender on way to refill smaller fire engine. Photo By Trent Munns, Firefighter.

As previously released, a Level 1 evacuation remains in effect and recommendations are the same as described in the below evacuation information and map.

LEVEL 1: A Level 1 Evacuation means "BE READY" for potential evacuation.

Residents should be aware of the danger that exists in their area, monitor emergency services websites and local media outlets for information. This is the time for preparation and precautionary movement of persons with special needs, mobile property and (under certain circumstances) pets and livestock. If conditions worsen, emergency services personnel may contact you via an emergency notification system.





Teton County Evacuation Levels

LEVEL 1: A Level 1 Evacuation means “BE READY” for potential evacuation.

Residents should be aware of the danger that exists in their area, monitor emergency services websites and local media outlets for information. This is the time for preparation and precautionary movement of persons with special needs, mobile property and (under certain circumstances) pets and livestock. If conditions worsen, emergency services personnel may contact you via an emergency notification system.

LEVEL 2: A Level 2 Evacuation means “BE SET” to evacuate.

YOU MUST PREPARE TO LEAVE AT A MOMENTS NOTICE

This level indicates there is significant danger to your area, and residents should either voluntarily relocate to a shelter or with family/friends outside of the affected area, or if choosing to remain, to be ready to evacuate at a moment’s notice. Residents MAY have time to gather necessary items, but doing so is at their own risk.

THIS MAY BE THE ONLY NOTICE THAT YOU RECEIVE

Emergency services cannot guarantee that they will be able to notify you if conditions rapidly deteriorate. Area media services will be asked to broadcast periodic updates.

LEVEL 3: A Level 3 Evacuation means “GO”

Evacuate NOW LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!

Danger to your area is current or imminent, and you should evacuate immediately. If you choose to ignore this advisement, you must understand that emergency services may not be available to assist you further. DO NOT delay leaving to gather any belongings or make efforts to protect your home.

THIS WILL BE THE LAST NOTICE THAT YOU RECEIVE

Entry to evacuated areas may be denied until conditions are safe. Area radio and TV stations have been asked to broadcast periodic updates.

Sign up for emergency notification at <http://www.tetoncountysheriff.com/>

Follow the Teton County Sheriff’s Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/teton.sheriff/ and the Teton County website at: www.tetoncountyidaho.gov

BEFORE WILDFIRE THREATENS

- Evacuation Plan. Print your plan and put it on your refrigerator, or put a copy in your disaster supplies kit. Make sure everyone in your family knows where your kit is. Also keep in mind that many of these principles apply to all disaster types.

- Get a map of your area and make sure everyone in your family understands the ways in and out of your neighborhood.
- Assign tasks to each family member for what to do during Level 1 (Ready), Level 2 (Set), Level 3 (GO!) evacuations. Print this checklist and post it on your refrigerator.
- Designate a meeting place – this could be a friend or family members' house, or an evacuation shelter.
- Choose an out-of-the-area contact person to relay information about your welfare to family and friends and to keep your phone lines open.

House Preparation

- Make sure house numbers are visible from the street.
- Make sure driveways are wide enough for fire trucks to enter (10-12 feet wide).
- Prepare your defensible space. See the Firewise checklists and tips. www.firewise.org

Disaster Supplies Kit

- Keep kits supplied and ready at all times in your home and in your vehicle. Kits should include, at the minimum, food and water for each family member for 3 days, battery operated radio, flashlight and extra batteries, first aid kit, and an extra set of sturdy clothing for each family member. Don't forget medications, as necessary.
- Assemble pet kits and keep them in your home and vehicle. Include food, water, leashes, carriers, and medications.
- Assemble special documents, like birth certificates, social security cards, legal documents, phone contact lists, family photos, household inventory, and any portable valuables into easily-moved containers that can be loaded into a vehicle quickly and easily.