



Six Rivers National Forest
Ukonom Ranger District

ORCA
(Oregon and California)
Interagency Incident
Management Team

Ken Paul,
Incident
Commander



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Thursday, July 24, 2008 - 08:00 a.m.

--- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ---

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Tom Lavagnino - Incident Information Officer (530) 627-3981

Incident Command Post is located in Orleans, CA – E-mail: ukonom.incident@gmail.com

Ukonom Complex

Start date: 6/20/08 00:00	Cause: Lightning	Estimated Size: 31,281 acres	% Contained: 24%	# of Firefighters: 712
Injuries to date 4	Estimated Containment: 9/15	Closures: Salmon River Road (Siskiyou Co.) near Somes Bar Dillon Creek, Oak Bottom & Nordheimer Flat Campgrounds, Medicine Mountain Trail (5820), Wooley Creek Trail (5820), Portuguese Peak Trail (5833), Bridge Creek Trail (5816), & all trails within the Ukonom RD Marble Mountain Wilderness, Norcross and Johnson Hunting Ground Trailheads	# of 20- person hand crews: 15	# of helicopters: 1 light, 1 medium, & 1 heavy-lift

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Orleans, CA --- Yesterday, fire crews completed constructing a fire line from Yellowjacket Ridge to the North Fork of Salmon River Road and also completed burn out operations to further strengthen and secure the line. Fire fighters will now let the fire gradually back down to the roads near Forks of Salmon with a low intensity burn. Structural protection forces will be in place around and near residences to prevent fire damage to buildings and improvements. For the past few days, crews have been busy inventorying and preparing their defense from the fire to any structure. Crews will be preparing a perimeter control around structures that are potentially threatened by the fire.

Today, crews will continue to monitor conditions around Forks of Salmon and will be prepared to take quick action in response to any situation. Last night a public meeting was held at the community center at Forks of Salmon where concerned citizens heard about the status of the fire and about the strategy and tactics that will be employed in the coming days.

Rappellers were inserted into the Crapo Fire by helicopter yesterday to check on that fire and strengthen and monitor the fire line containing that 15-acre fire. At the north end of the main fire, crews continued to prepare fire lines and existing roads and trails for possible burn out operation when conditions are right. The suppression strategy for this fire is to prevent it from burning any private land and to direct it away from the Klamath and Salmon Rivers and into the high country of the Marble Mountain Wilderness. The country above 4,500 feet in elevation still exhibits conditions that are “spring like” with green meadows and vegetation that contains more moisture than the vegetation near the Klamath and Salmon Rivers.

A closure remains in effect for the Salmon River Road near Somes Bar to the Forks of Salmon to the general public. Local residents and firefighters will be allowed to travel this road with restrictions. Roads near the fire are extremely smoky and caution and common sense are urged when traveling near Somes Bar and Forks of the Salmon. Heavy equipment, fire engines, and firefighters are on or near the roads. All recreation trails within the Ukonom Ranger District part of the Marble Mountain Wilderness are closed, as well as the Norcross and Johnson Hunting Ground Trailheads until further notice. The Dillon Creek Campground is also closed until conditions change.

A public meeting is planned for tonight at the Junction School in Somes Bar at 6:30 p.m. Fire managers and district rangers will be available to present fire information for the Siskiyou, Blue Too, and Ukonom Complexes. The status of the fires will be discussed and maps will be display. A question and answer period will follow the brief presentations.