

POWER INCIDENT UPDATE

October 7, 2004

The Northern California Incident Management Team, with Incident Commander John Wendt, is assigned to manage the incident for the Eldorado National Forest. For information call 209-295-5987.

Size: 220 acres

Started: October 6, 2004

Location: The fire is burning about 17 miles East of Pioneer, California above the Salt Springs Reservoir.

Current Situation:

- The fire is burning in very steep terrain with very dry fuel conditions and generally spreading in a northeasterly direction towards the Mokelumne Wilderness.
- The fire is about 220 acres in size and is approximately 50% contained, although fuels are very dry and yesterday spot fires were numerous (up to 50-60 spot fires, with the largest being about 2 acres in size).
- Dozers built a secondary line around the spot fires last night.
- Fire line has been constructed along the western flank of the fire. Crews will be working the north and eastern flanks today.
- Currently, structures and improvements are not threatened.
- Resources assigned to the fire include: over 600 total personnel, 10 crews, 16 engines, and 5 helicopters. Air tankers are readily available if needed.
- Highway 88 is open to traffic as of Thursday morning, October 7, 2004, two units of the California Highway Patrol are assigned to provide for travelers' safety.

Some Incident Objectives Include:

- Fight fire aggressively, outside of the Wilderness boundary, providing for safety first.
- Provide for firefighter and public safety.
- Protect the infrastructure including the Bear River Summer Home Tract, Camp Winton, Bear River Resort, and PG&E Improvements.
- Protect key natural resources including river values, cultural sites, and threatened and endangered species habitat.

Fire Conditions:

The fire is located in extremely steep terrain and live fuel moisture is very low. Fire behavior observed yesterday was significant runs upslope from the bottom of the canyon in brush and fire spread slowed significantly after reaching the Mixed Conifer/Red Fir stands of trees. Spotting from the main fire was observed up to ½ mile during the initial upslope run. Areas with heavy fuel accumulations still have potential to spot, especially if the winds pick up as is expected later today and tomorrow.

Cooperating Agencies:

USDA Forest Service, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, California Highway Patrol, Amador Fire Department, and representatives of local/county fire units.