



August 20, 2018
208-557-8813

www.fs.fed.us/jpnf
idahopanhandle@firenet.gov

There was one new fire yesterday, located on the St. Joe Ranger District near the border with the Lolo NF.

Stage I Fire Restrictions: <http://www.idahofireinfo.com> **Forest Closures:** www.fs.fed.us/jpnf

Inciweb: Five wildfires burning on IPNF lands have active Inciweb pages providing detailed information:
<https://inciweb.nwccg.gov>

National Preparedness Level is 5 - Northern Rockies Preparedness Level is 4

FIRE WEATHER WARNING IN EFFECT TODAY FOR STRONG NORTHERLY WINDS.

Troy Community Meeting hosted by the Kootenai National Forest will be held tonight in the Troy High School Gym at 7:00 p.m. MDT. Topics will be the Idaho/Montana border wildfires of Rampike and Cougar in addition to local issues. For more information: 406-283-7693

Smoke Dispersion: Unhealthy air will be common at time across north Idaho. Some improvement will be possible through Tuesday potentially allowing the air quality to oscillate between unhealthy and moderate. However, winds are expected to turn Monday bringing smoke from ongoing fires in British Columbia drifting into Idaho and causing more pronounced and prolonged return to unhealthy levels.

Fire Behavior was moderate yesterday with minimal fire activity attributed to the lower temps and higher humidity's. Fire was observed creeping slowly along the ground, backing, single tree torching and some uphill runs.

Safety issues continue to be steep rugged terrain and concern for falling snags.

Cougar and Surprise Creek Fires managed jointly will undergo a change of command from Rod Weeks Type 3 organization to a National Incident Management Organization (NIMO) Team tomorrow morning. Progress of the Surprise Creek fire continues as firefighter's box in the containment area with completion of the Bunco Road #332 to the west, Forest Road #205 to the north and current work ongoing work along Forest Road #332G to the east. Crews on the Cougar fire, in a preventative measure, wrapped a SNOWTEL site and the Keeler Warming Hut in fire retardant material. A sprinkler system has been set near the Keeler Warming Hut to aid protection should the need arise.

NIMO: The National Incident Management Organization consists of seven members, Incident Commander, Safety Officer, Public Information Officer, Planning Section Chief, Operations Section Chief, Logistics Section Chief, and Finance Section Chief. Unlike other Incident Management Teams whose member's participation is in addition to their daily job duties, NIMO Team members are employed full time year round providing a variety of support functions in all aspects of fire management.

<i>Uncontained Wildfires per RD by Name & approx. Acreage</i>		
Ranger District	Fire Name	Acres
Coeur d'Alene River	Rampike	2000
Coeur d'Alene River	Surprise Creek	2100
St. Joe	Snow Peak	42
Sandpoint	Cougar	5524
Bonnors Ferry	Copper Mtn.	240
Bonnors Ferry	Smith Creek	870

Weather: Gusty winds north to northwest are picking up this morning and will continue to increase into the early afternoon. This will be the strongest push of northerly winds experienced so far this summer. Humidities are higher in North Idaho this morning, but will lower into the 20's this afternoon.