

Tamarack Fire Update

Thursday, July 29, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.

Rocky Mountain Type 1 Incident Management Team

Dan Dallas, Incident Commander



Information Phones: 775-434-8629 (public), 775-434-8110 (media only)

Email: 2021.tamarack@firenet.gov

Information Staffing Hours: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Special notes: We strongly encourage members of the public and residents to limit travel near and through the fire area to only essential travel due to continued fire activity. Heavy firefighter traffic remains throughout the area and along the roadways, and utility companies are working to restore power.

Current Situation: Much of the firefighting effort focused on the uncontained portions of the fire yesterday, especially in Divisions Q and T. They are making gains, directly attacking the fire in rugged country using aerial support, burnout operations, and other ground resources. The fire is 59% contained. The structure group is spread out through populated areas, patrolling and mopping up hot spots.

A suppression repair group is starting work today with two crews, two excavators, and a chipper. Their goal is to reduce firefighting damage to soil, water, and other resources. Please especially use caution on State Route 89 today; the repair group will be chipping in that area.

Branch I: Divisions K and O – The entire north and east edges of the fire are contained and in patrol status. On the western edge, crews mopped up hot spots within the containment area near Hawkins Peak. Additional firefighters will be added to this area today to ensure that any increased fire activity is addressed. Firefighters also are working near Charity Valley Creek to secure the remaining uncontained section of the western edge in Division K.

Branch II: Firefighters are using heavy equipment and aerial resources to aid crews working on foot in difficult terrain. Helicopters are dropping water from buckets and Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) including drones are helping to visualize the fire, find areas of heat, and ignite unburned pockets of fuel. Two air tankers and ten helicopters will be in the air today, depending on weather and visibility.

Division Q – Three crews worked yesterday in the Poison Creek area and will continue today to connect a four-mile stretch of line from the current containment line to Bryant Creek. They will continue to burn out and address hot spots in this area today and further west, aided by UAS.

Division T – Firefighters continued working west to secure the perimeter. A UAS will assist them with scouting steep ground today, moving toward Division A. Four hotshot crews will keep securing and burning out fuels along the perimeter. Crews will also remove fire-weakened “danger trees” for safety along the road to residences near Indian Creek.

Division A – A UAS flight gave firefighters new information yesterday to aid in formulating plans. One module addressed hot spots near the break with Division K. The other placed time-lapse cameras to continue providing information for safe fire suppression options. These modules will continue installing cameras today and engaging the fire as needed.

Weather and Fuel Conditions: Yesterday’s thunderstorms produced little rain on the fire area. It was windy, with gusts up to 49 mph at Leviathan Peak. Today there is a 50% chance of thunderstorms and a 25% chance of wetting rain. High temperatures will range from the 70s-80s with humidity 4% higher than yesterday and continuing gusty winds. Thunderstorms are forecast for this afternoon and evening, with potential for dry lightning.

Evacuations, Recovery, Closures, and Fire Restrictions: For specific information on evacuation and recovery actions in Alpine and Douglas Counties visit:

<https://www.alpinecountyca.gov/AlertCenter.aspx?AID=EVACUATION-INFORMATION-53> and

https://www.douglascountynv.gov/government/departments/emergency_management/current_emergencies/tamarack_fire_markleeville_c_a

For closures and fire restrictions on National Forest lands visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/htnf/alerts-notice>

Grover Hot Springs State Park remains closed to the public. Burnside Lake is the only area under evacuation.

A temporary flight restriction (TFR) remains in place. TFR violations can disrupt aerial firefighting operations and may force fire managers to ground essential aircraft. Wildfires are a no-fly zone for unauthorized aircraft, including drones. **If you fly, we can't.** For more information, visit <http://knowbeforeyoufly.org>.

Tamarack Fire Statistics: Size: 68,497 acres Containment: 59% Total Personnel: 1,093 Location: Markleeville, CA Reported: July 4, 2021 Cause: Lightning	For More Information: Public Information Phone: 775-434-8629 Public email: 2021.tamarack@firenet.gov Media Phone: 775-434-8110 Media email: mediatamarack@gmail.com InciWeb: https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7674/ Facebook: www.facebook.com/tamarackfireinfo Twitter: https://twitter.com/tamarack_fire Youtube: https://bit.ly/TamarackVideo
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