

BRULER FIRE UPDATES

7/12 UPDATE: The Bruler Fire is burning south of Detroit. Firefighters responded to the newly-ignited blaze on Monday, burning in the Quartzville Corridor on Forest Service Road 11 about 8 miles south of Detroit Lake. Officials say the fire is not currently threatening any communities or structures. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

A Type 2 incident management team will arrive to take command of managing the fire but smoke will continue to be visible from the area, with light to moderate smoke expected to settle in lower elevation areas in the vicinity. Linn County deputies and the Forest Service are notifying the public camping or recreation in the area of the closure and asking them to leave the area. Drivers may encounter increased fire crew traffic on Highway 22.

7/14 UPDATE: The U.S Forest Service provided this update at 9:45 am on July 14, 2021. The fire remained at about 90 acres overnight. The weather (wind and humidity) is helping suppression efforts. Bulldozer and fire crews have fire lines around the fire as of this morning. They feel if a significant wind/weather event does not happen they will be able to go into a monitor mode in approximately two weeks.

7/15 UPDATE: Mayor Jim Trett spoke with Detroit District Ranger, Shawn Rivera yesterday regarding the news that the Forest Service had diverted a Level-1 Air asset away from the Bruler Fire, 8-miles South of Detroit to a fire burning near La Pine, OR. In actuality, the unit that was diverted was a Level-1 Hot Shot crew since ground crews at Bruler currently keeping the fire contained to 90-acres and are making good progress on fighting the burn.

7/16 UPDATE: Firefighters took advantage of cooler temperatures and higher humidity to complete additional direct and indirect line around the Bruler Fire yesterday. Additional resources arrived on the fire, allowing firefighters to identify and mop up a spot fire that occurred to the northeast of the established fire perimeter. The spot fire has been completely lined and cold trailed, which greatly reduces the likelihood of future spread from this location. A helicopter is assigned to the Bruler Fire, ready to respond to hot spots and new starts within the fire area.

The Bruler Fire is estimated to be 156 acres with the addition of the spot fire and more accurate mapping. Today, firefighters will take advantage of moderate weather conditions to mop up and cold trail around the fire. Mop up includes using hoses to add water to remove heat from burned areas. Cold trailing is a time-consuming process that verifies the ground is cold to the touch. This labor-intensive job involves walking the entire fire perimeter and feeling the ground for hot spots and embers. Fallers will also remove hazard trees and snags to reduce the probability of fire spread beyond the established perimeter, and to increase safety from them falling.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR: The weather will be cooler, with a marine

layer increasing relative humidity and clouds. Winds are forecast to be light, with gusts up to 10 mph on ridge tops. Temperatures are expected to stay cooler through the weekend until a high-pressure system arrives early next week, which will bring warmer temperatures.

CLOSURES: A large closure area has been established to maintain firefighter and public safety. This closure encompasses large portions of Forest Service lands south of Detroit Lake, west of Highway 22 and north of Highway 20. The closure also includes the Middle Santiam Wilderness, Daly Lake, Tule Lake and the trail network known as the Old Cascade Crest trail system. The closure is posted to the Willamette National Forest webpage.. A Bureau of Land Management (BLM) closure area is also in place for lands along the Quartzville Scenic Byway/Quartzville road including Yellowbottom Campground, Old Miner's Meadow Group Site, and nearby dispersed camping areas. Visit InciWeb for more information about closures in the area.

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Inciweb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7663/>

Oregon Smoke Blog <http://oregonsmoke.blogspot.com/p/air-quality-now.html>

7/17 UPDATE: The Bruler fire continues to hold within the current lines. Firefighters continue to work their way further into the fire slowly mopping up as they mitigate snags and hazards. Yesterday's small spot fire was checked and is looking good. With yesterday's spot fire, the divisions began a grid search to see if any further spot fires could be located. The good news was that no new spot fires were located, but that doesn't mean there still couldn't be some smoldering very slowly and not spotted on today's sweep. We will conduct another sweep in a day or two, but will continue to be keeping an eye for spot fires as firefighters continue working on the main fire. We did have some minor interior torching today, with the helicopter being utilized to knock it back down with bucket drops. On the west flank, the fire continues to consume fuels as it backs down the hill. Firefighters tried to work their way slowly onto the steep slope but confirmed in some areas it is too dangerous in some areas. Putting helicopter buckets in this area may extend the burning as the water slows the fire but logs will continue to smolder and may later take off under windy conditions, so we will continue to let the fire back down and consume the fuels while the weather is favorable.