

Over 1000 More Evacuated from Black Crater Fire near Sisters

by Bend Weekly News Sources

On the heels of a visit by Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski, the 1033 citizens of the 413 homes in the Tollgate subdivision have been advised to evacuate. They join the other 496 residents from 204 homes already evacuated from the Crossroads subdivision and Edgington Road outside the Deschutes County town of Sisters.

Citizens leaving are reminded to:

• Connect hoses to all spigots. • Close all windows, curtains and shutters. • Shut off gas at the meter, turn off pilot lights. • Tell an out-of-area friend or relative you are leaving and where you are going. • Listen to the radio for additional emergency instructions. Citizens leave as the State Fire Marshal doubles the number of structural firefighters defending homes threatened by the catastrophic fire. The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal sent additional structural firefighters from Clackamas, Linn, Lane, and Benton counties along with a strike team from Marion County. Structural task forces and strike teams from Yamhill, Lincoln, Klamath, Clatsop, Marion, and Clackamas counties are beginning to arrive. They bring additional personnel and equipment to assist local fire districts defending structures threatened by wildfire and join Central Oregon structural task forces already on scene as well as the local fire departments defending their home district. The intense efforts have so far protected community homes though a historic cabin was destroyed by fire yesterday afternoon in an area without fire protection. The threatening Black Crater Conflagration, started by lightning, has grown to 4,727 acres. On July 27th Governor Ted Kulongoski invoked the Oregon Conflagration Act to allow State Fire Marshal Nancy Orr to mobilize firefighters and equipment to assist local resources battling the fire. The request to invoke the Oregon Conflagration Act came from Deschutes County Fire Defense Board Chief Taylor Robertson. On July 28 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) authorized the use of federal funds to help fight the fire. Updated fire information is available at OSFM website: <http://egov.oregon.gov/OOHS/SFM> and more information on evacuation readiness may be found at: http://egov.oregon.gov/OOHS/SFM/docs/Comm_Ed/WUI/wildfire_evac.doc

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