



Caldor Fire Daily Update October 8, 2021



<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/7801/>

@EldoradoNF @LakeTahoeUSFS

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REVIEW AND CURRENT SITUATION

The Caldor Fire began on the Eldorado National Forest on August 14th, 2021, 55 days ago. Growing quickly, the fire exceeded initial attack capabilities. Driven by hot, dry winds through historically dry forests, the fire grew 18,000 to 22,000 acres daily for the first three days. On August 17th a Forest Closure Order was issued for the Eldorado National Forest which lasted through September 30th at which point it was replaced with a forest closure tied more closely to the threats posed by the Caldor Fire.

Due to the long-range spotting which occurred on August 20th and 21st, the fire crossed Hwy 50 and became established in the South Fork of the American River. Continued upslope westerly winds pushed the fire east over Echo Summit and into the Community of South Lake Tahoe, causing significant impacts to tourism and widespread evacuation orders. At its peak, an estimated 49,800 people were evacuated from their homes, 32,000 structures were threatened and 4500 firefighters were committed to stopping the fire and protecting lives and property. By the time firefighters were able to stop the growth of the fire, 782 structures had been destroyed and 81 structures had been damaged. As of October 7th, 2021, the fire has burned 221,775 acres and is 93% contained. Currently there are 1,142 firefighters working on suppression and repair.

The forecasted low-pressure system is delivering cooler weather. Expect showers as well as a dusting of snow at higher elevations in the next 24-48 hours followed by a drying out for the weekend. **Due to continued extreme/exceptional drought conditions, this moisture will slow the surface spread of the fire, however it will do little to extinguish the fire.** Suppression of hot spots continues to be a priority and crews are picking up the pace with repair and rehabilitation. The Caldor Fire footprint (fire area) contains a mosaic of burned and unburned islands within it, expect to see occasional single tree fires and pockets of smoke. With little or no smoke from fires to the south, we expect good air quality for the next week. Learn more about your air quality by going to: fire.airnow.gov. The forest is deceptively dry and continues to be at high risk for fire.

ALL EL DORADO COUNTY CALDOR FIRE EVACUATION WARNINGS AND ORDERS - HAVE BEEN LIFTED (10-4-2021)

The Forest Closures REMAIN IN PLACE for everyone's safety. Repair and rehabilitation of the impacted fire area involves the use of large mechanized equipment which creates an unsafe work environment. Since the risk of fire danger has been reduced, it might lead people to feel as if it's safe to venture into the woods. However, in addition to the heavy equipment, there are many potential hazard trees, falling branches, loose rocks and ash pits leaving the forest unsafe for the near future.

SAFETY NOTE: At almost two months since the start of the Caldor Fire, it's not a time for anyone to relax *safe practices*. More than 2000 individuals are working along Highways 50, 89 and 88 in an effort to meet objectives prior to extreme weather conditions. Traffic delays are a certainty and all roads within this area are vulnerable to icy conditions. Take your time.

**** For updates related to PGE work in the fire area, please visit: [PGE WildFireRecovery](https://www.pge.com/wildfire) ****

USDA FOREST SERVICE – ALL CLOSURES REMAIN IN PLACE

- **ELDORADO NATIONAL FOREST:**
 - **All roads, trails and facilities within the fire closure area remain closed.**
For more info: [Forest Order 03-21-18](#) and [Eldorado NF Closure Information](#)
 - **ALL fires are prohibited on the forest, including gas and propane.** For more info: [Forest Order 03-21-16](#).
Overnight camping is temporarily prohibited in the forest. For more info: [Forest Order 03-21-17](#).
- **LAKE TAHOE BASIN MANAGEMENT UNIT (LTBMU):**
 - **Caldor Fire Emergency Closure (19-20-06)** for portions of the LTBMU remains in effect through December 31, 2021. For more info: [LTBMU Fire Closure Order 19-20-06](#)
 - **Backcountry closure (Forest Order 19-21-07)** for the following areas: Desolation Wilderness, Meiss Backcountry, Barker Pass Road and McKinney/Rubicon Trail remains in effect until October 20, 2021.
For more info: [LTBMU Backcountry Closure Order 19-21-07](#)