



## News Release

Oregon Department of Forestry  
Southwest Oregon District

September 2, 2018

Oregon Department of Forestry  
Southwest Oregon District  
5286 Table Rock Rd.  
Central Point, OR 97502

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Melissa Cano, Public Information Officer  
(541) 613-6313 or (541) 664-3328

### **Firefighters Battling 150 Acre Hugo Road Fire near Grants Pass**

Firefighters are working hard to slow the forward progress of the Hugo Road Fire in Hugo, burning west of Interstate 5 near exit 66.

A grass fire was called in at approximately 7:15 this evening and is anticipated to have grown to 150 acres within just a few hours. Firefighters from multiple agencies, helicopters, and air tankers were able to attack this fire aggressively from the start. However, aerial resources had to be grounded when the sun went down.

Tonight, we have five dozers, six hand crews, 10 engines and multiple water tenders fighting the fire. Firefighters are hoping to completely line the fire tonight and keep the fire in check tomorrow. Crews are facing extreme fire behavior, wind gusts, steep terrain, and dry fuels throughout the entire area of the fire.

In addition, nineteen engines are working specifically on protecting and defending homes. Structures remain threatened.

Right now, evacuations are being issued. All that are in a Level 3 "Go" evacuation area have already been notified by law enforcement, or have received a Citizen Alert notification. Additional Level 2 "Be Set" and Level 1 "Be Ready" will be issued shortly. Please monitor the Josephine County Emergency Management Page for additional details. We will also share those updates here as soon as they are announced.

A shelter has been established for people and animals at the Josephine County Fairgrounds. Anyone needing assistance can call Southern Oregon Emergency Aide at 541-226-1124.

The cause remains under investigation.



Partners involved include ODF Southwest Oregon District, Rural Metro Fire - Josephine County, Grants Pass Department of Public Safety, Applegate Valley Fire District, Illinois Valley Fire District, Rogue River Fire District, Ashland Fire & Rescue, Medford Fire-Rescue, Jackson County Fire District #5 IAFF Local 2596, Jackson County Fire District 4, Fire District 3, Josephine County Emergency Management, Josephine County Sheriff's Office, and American Red Cross.

Please keep in mind that this incident is quickly evolving, and all firefighters are doing everything they can to catch this fire overnight. We anticipate having a clearer picture of the situation by morning.