

NEWS



Forest Service

*United States
Department of
Agriculture*

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**Inyo
National Forest**

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4:00 PM*

Forks Fire Update

Monday July 20, 2009 – 4:00 PM

The Mandatory Evacuation of the Bishop Creek Canyon Recreation Area, due to the Forks Fire, will be lifted on Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. for business owners, special use permit holders, and residents of Aspendell and South Fork. It is anticipated that Starlite will remain under a voluntary evacuation.

Tomorrow the Fire Management Team will continue to evaluate the situation and will determine what day the general public will be allowed to enter the Recreation Area. It is anticipated that it will be on Wednesday or Thursday of this week.

Incident Commander Ron Woychak advised that even though there is not much smoke visible from the fire, there are still a lot of hot spots and open line, and that flare-ups could happen at any time particularly if erratic winds accompany more thunderstorms. There is also a lot of emergency equipment travelling on the roads as they access the fire. Public safety and fire crews being able to do their jobs are considerations in deciding when Highway 168 will be re-opened to the general public.

Please tune in to local radio stations KIBS, KSRW, and KMMT for updated information.

Fire Information is also available by calling 760-873-2503.

A Type II Fire Team from Southern California is managing the Forks Fire at this time. Airtankers and helicopters continue to support engines and handcrews working to contain the fire. Approximately 400 people are assigned to the 2000 acre Forks Fire.

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