



Fire Update

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Weather conditions aid firefighters on the Lush and Elephant Fires

The **Elephant Fire (#225)** located approximately 5 miles north of the Eureka Highway, showed minimal fire activity again yesterday. There was creeping and smoldering observed within the fire perimeter. The total fire acreage remains at 8,941 acres. Yesterday, the fire received a couple hours of precipitation. Scattered storms are anticipated today along with gusty southwesterly winds. Smokey conditions are anticipated to improve over the next couple days. Behind these storms is high pressure system that will develop Wednesday with warmer and drier conditions expected again Thursday into the weekend.

Yesterday, firefighters completed securing line in the Minook Creek drainage and pulled water hose off of that line. Today, the North Star Fire Crew will go back over areas with structures along Minook Creek and the Eureka Rampart Road to ensure they are mitigated for any potential risk. Firefighters will access what supplies can be backhauled off of the fire area.

A Level 1 “Ready” evacuation notice remains in effect for Eureka and the surrounding area. Residents should stay alert and prepared in case conditions change.

The **Lush Fire (#199)** remains 26,585 acres in size and is located on the north side of the Yukon River across from Rampart. The fire received two brief periods of precipitation yesterday. In places where the terrain and wind aligned, creeping and backing fire behavior were observed. Cloudy skies and numerous rain showers are anticipated today. Cooler temperatures and potentially gusty and erratic winds are in the forecast near thunderstorms.

Today, firefighters will continue working on the northern edge of the fire to prevent any potential spread north to a cluster of Alaska Native Allotments. They will use a combination of working direct on the fire and will also use natural landscape features to secure the fire. Crews will also work to secure and mop up around structures on the southern and eastern edge of the fire.

Overall, fire managers are monitoring 45 other fires in the zone and will staff those fires if conditions warrant.

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