



Oregon State Fire Marshal Incident Management Team
RED TEAM – Ian Yocum – Incident Commander
Southwest Area Complex Incident Management Team
TEAM 4 – Andrew Mandell – Incident Commander



Bench Fire containment at 32% in advance of Saturday Red Flag Warning; evacuation changes made **Daily Update for July 31, 2026**

Public Phone: 541-707-8719 (8 a.m. to 8 p.m.)

Media Phone: 541-981-5978 (8 a.m. to 8 p.m.)

Acres: 66,404

Location: 4 miles southwest of Warm Springs, Ore.

Personnel: 869

Containment: 32%

Start Date: Thursday, July 23, 2026

Cause: Undetermined

Fuels: Grass and shrub, ponderosa pine

Latest Update: Local weather conditions are expected to trend toward a Red Flag Warning as the weekend approaches. Thanks to the coordinated work of tribal, local, state and federal partners, the threat to structures in the Warm Springs area has decreased significantly, allowing evacuation levels in many areas to be lowered and residents to begin returning home.

Ongoing & Planned Operations: The western edge of the Bench Fire remains active near Metolius River where crews will continue direct suppression using roads as holding features. Crews will continue mopping up along the eastern edge of the fire where fire crossed over U.S. Route 26 while improving hand line established in rough terrain. Firefighters will continue to strengthen existing containment lines in advance of this weekend's weather forecast and establish contingency containment lines south of Lake Billy Chinook. Aerial resources remain committed to the fire.

As structure protection objectives are met, Oregon State Fire Marshal will continue evaluating resource needs to ensure structural firefighting resources are positioned where they are needed most throughout Oregon's active fire season. As conditions allow and the threat to communities continues to decrease, resources will begin returning to their home agencies or transitioning to other incidents, restoring emergency response capacity in their communities while maintaining the personnel and resources necessary to support the Bench Fire until the structural protection mission is complete.

Weather & Smoke: Hotter and drier conditions are expected to develop throughout the rest of the week. Today's temperatures will reach a high of 91 with humidities in the teens. Critical fire weather conditions are likely to develop Saturday as wind gusts strengthen to 30 miles per hour. A Central Oregon smoke report is visible at <https://outlooks.airfire.org/outlook/6aaf6480>.

Evacuations & Closures: An evacuation map is available at <https://fr911orgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e1000ff48be84d6ba23431f303d2c247>. The following areas are now under a LEVEL TWO, BE SET evacuation notice: Campus, Museum, Community Center, Elmer Quinn, West Hills, Tenino Apartments, Elliott Heights, Greeley Heights, Tenino – East, Tenino – West, Dry Hollow, Lower Seekseequa, Upper Seekseequa, the western side of NW 17, the western and northern border of SW 17, the western and northern border of NW 10. The following areas are now under a LEVEL ONE, BE READY: The area bordering the LEVEL TWO: BE SET in SW 17 and NW 10, the corner of LBC 6 White, the northern two-thirds of Lake Billy Chinook 5 Black and 4 Blue. Levels have been lifted for the northeastern portion of SW 23, north corner of SW 21, western border of SW 16, NW 17 – east and NW 16. Other evacuation statuses remain unchanged. A portion of the Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grasslands affected by the fire has been temporarily closed. More information is available at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r06/ochoco/alerts/emergency-fire-closure-area-crooked-river-national-grassland>. Travelers should monitor Oregon road conditions using tripcheck.com.

More Information: Stage 2 fire restrictions remain in effect in Jefferson County and Warm Springs. A map of fire restrictions can be viewed at <https://gisapps.odf.oregon.gov/firerestrictions/PFR.html>. A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) is in effect over the fire area. More information is available at https://tfr.faa.gov/tfr3/?page=detail_6_8859.

Bench Fire InciWeb: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/orwsa-bench>

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