



Southwest Area Complex Incident Management Team
TEAM 4 – Andrew Mandell – Incident Commander



Low fire activity on Bench Fire despite Red Flag Warning; Firefighters respond to new nearby wildfire start
Daily Update for Aug. 2, 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: 67,238

Location: 4 miles southwest of Warm Springs, Ore.

Personnel: 872

Containment: 52%

Start Date: Thursday, July 23, 2026

Cause: Lightning

Fuels: Grass and shrub, ponderosa pine

Latest Update: Containment lines on the Bench Fire held and fire behavior remained low during yesterday's Red Flag Warning weather conditions. Resources from the Bench Fire conducted initial attack yesterday on the nearby Round Butte Fire, a wildfire located just southeast of Round Butte that was reported at roughly 3 p.m. The Round Butte fire is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service.

Ongoing & Planned Operations: Firefighters will spend today holding and reinforcing containment lines built around the perimeter of the Bench Fire. Crews located on the south side of the fire will work to keep the fire on the north side of Metolius River. Firefighters will work to ensure containment lines located along the southern end of the fire continue holding while also mopping up and securing containment lines established along the north perimeter of the fire. Crews plan to staff a night shift tonight to assist with mopping up and securing and will remain poised to respond to new fire starts in the area of the Bench Fire if needed. Aircraft will continue supporting ground firefighting operations, using Lake Billy Chinook as a dip site.

Weather & Smoke: Though today's weather conditions don't meet Red Flag Warning criteria, weather remains hot, windy and dry. Today's high temperature will be 78 with humidities between the teens and 20s. Wind speeds will remain high with gusts forecasted in the mid-to-upper 20 mile per hour range. Smoke from multiple wildfires will continue to affect the area. A central Oregon smoke report is available at <https://outlooks.airfire.org/outlook/6aaf6480>.

Evacuations & Closures: An interactive evacuation map is available from Jefferson County at <https://fr911orgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e1000ff48be84d6ba23431f303d2c247>. Due to the Round Butte Fire, SW 16 and SW 17/16 L3 have been placed on a LEVEL THREE: GO NOW evacuation status. SW 15 has been placed on a LEVEL TWO: BE READY evacuation status.

A portion of the Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grasslands affected by the fire is temporarily closed. A map and a formal closure order are 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: Aircraft continue using the surface of Lake Billy Chinook as a dip site to assist in firefighting operations. Watercraft should avoid aircraft interference. 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>

Email: 2026.bench@firenet.gov

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/2026.benchfire>