



**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**



**Red Flag Warning in effect; critical fire weather expected on Bench Fire**  
**Daily Update for Aug. 1, 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:** 67,229

**Location:** 4 miles southwest of Warm Springs, Ore.

**Personnel:** 1,020

**Containment:** 46%

**Start Date:** Thursday, July 23, 2026

**Cause:** Undetermined

**Fuels:** Grass and shrub, ponderosa pine

**Latest Update:** A Red Flag Warning is in effect and firefighters are preparing for critical fire weather expected today. Extreme fire behavior will likely emerge due to today's weather forecast, particularly along the Bench Fire's western perimeter. With structure protection objectives achieved and the threat to homes and communities significantly reduced, today marks the final operational period for Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM) structural firefighting resources assigned to the Bench Fire.

**Ongoing & Planned Operations:** Today, firefighters will hold and secure fire containment lines that have been established while scouting for back-up containment line locations west of the fire in preparation for the active fire behavior predicted this weekend. Crews are mopping up and securing containment lines located both south and east of the Bench Fire, where fire activity is minimal. Crews are also strengthening containment lines located along the northern perimeter of the fire. Firefighters will continue firing operations at the northwest corner of the fire to deepen the containment lines that have been established. Aircraft will continue supporting ground firefighting operations, using Lake Billy Chinook as a dip site.

Through collaborative efforts, crews have successfully strengthened protection around threatened communities, allowing OSFM to demobilize this evening. These resources will be reassigned to support other nearby fires or return to serve their home communities across Oregon. Although OSFM structural resources are demobilizing, structural specialists will remain assigned to the incident to coordinate any future structure protection needs with fire managers. If conditions change and structures become threatened, OSFM remains prepared to quickly mobilize resources to support communities, local agencies, and wildland partners.

**Weather & Smoke:** A Red Flag Warning will remain in effect today. Today's high temperature is 80 degrees with humidities in the low-to-mid 20s. Sustained winds of 20 miles per hour are expected throughout the day with gusts up to 33 mph. An ongoing weather system is combining strong gusty winds with a dry, cold front, and low humidities and hot temperatures are expected into next week as well. 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>. 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](http://tripcheck.com). Motorists and pedestrians should be cognizant of increased fire vehicle traffic on area roads.

**More Information:** Watercraft users are asked to give way to aircraft on all portions of Lake Billy Chinook when aircraft are using the water's surface for firefighting operations. Interference may force a full or partial closure of the lake. 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](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](mailto:2026.bench@firenet.gov)

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