



# Rich and Belden Fires

## Fire Information Update

[www.pnw2.com](http://www.pnw2.com)

[www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org)

[www.fs.fed.us/r5/plumas/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/plumas/)

**Contact:** Public Information Office (530) 283-7882 or 7883

### Friday, August 1, 2008 - 9 am PDT Update

Fire	Acres	% Contained	Cost	Total Personnel
Rich	4,200	5%	\$ 580,890	516*
Belden	474	70%		

*\*Number of total personnel provided is an estimate; more accurate numbers of personnel assigned to the Rich/Belden Fires will be available at end of shift today. Additional resources are on order.*

#### WHAT'S NEW & EVENTS:

- The Pacific Northwest Interagency Incident Management Team 2 (Hoff) assumed management of the Rich and Belden Fires at 6:00 p.m. yesterday evening.
- A public meeting to provide current information on the Rich and Belden Fires is scheduled for this evening at 7 p.m. at the Greenville High School in the multi-purpose room/cafeteria at 117 Grand Street in Greenville.
- The Incident Command Post for the Rich Fire is being set up in east Quincy on Mill Creek Road.

**BELDEN FIRE STATUS:** The Belden Fire, located  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile west of Belden, has shown minimal movement recently, with the most active area being an approximate 2-acre portion on the NE corner of the fire. This fire is located within the old Storie Fire area and fire activity is expected to be minimal over the next several days. A helicopter with a helitack crew will assess and monitor this fire by air today to determine the best strategic approach for suppression. There is a heavy load of downed logs, making it difficult and dangerous to access the area in which this fire is located. The Belden Fire is currently 474 acres in size and 70% contained.

#### RICH FIRE STATUS:

With adequate resources on hand for aggressive suppression efforts, firefighters are making every effort to construct direct fireline as much as possible to minimize the size of the Rich fire. However, there are areas of this fire that are requiring indirect line construction followed by burnout operations in order to stop the forward progress of the fire. The indirect line is necessary due to the rugged terrain and firefighter safety concerns.

Yesterday/Night Operations: Firefighters made good progress constructing hand and dozer line in the southeast corner of the fire. Helicopters provided excellent support to the firefighters on the ground yesterday, assisting in the establishment of anchor points. The fire was fairly hot in the Rich Gulch area; helicopter water bucket and retardant drops were made to provide protection for homes in the area. Firefighters also concentrated efforts in the Deadwood Saddle area on the west flank of the fire. Night operations improved the dozer line on the south. The structure group continued with structure protection efforts in the Rush Creek area.

The Rich Fire is located on both sides of Highway 70 and the East Fork of the Feather River. The following is a summary of suppression efforts on both segments of the Rich Fire.

**Rich Fire located south of the East Fork of the Feather River:** The fire is currently lined and burnout operations are planned along the east flank today.

**Rich Fire located north of the East Fork of the Feather River:**

West flank-Firefighters are continuing to build direct line from Deadwood Saddle north.

North flank-Firefighters are constructing line utilizing existing shaded fuel breaks.

East flank-Firefighters are constructing indirect line south of the 26N67 Road in an effort to connect with existing dozer and hand line in Rich Gulch. Existing lines will be utilized to connect into lines on the northeast flank of the fire. Structure protection is being provided for structures immediately threatened in the Rich Gulch area. Structure protection needs along Highway 70 east of the fire are currently being assessed.

**Mandatory & Voluntary Evacuations:** Mandatory evacuations are in effect for Rush Creek Road. Voluntary evacuations are in effect for Caribou, Seneca and the South portion of Butt Lake.

**Evacuation Shelter:** Veterans' Hall on Lawrence Street in Quincy. For more information, contact the American Red Cross in Chico at (530) 272-3265.

**Closures and Road Status:** A section of Hwy 70 between Gansner Bar and Virgilia currently remains closed due to fire activity. The fire activity is being closely monitored to determine when the road can be safely opened for public use. Three emergency closure areas on the Plumas National Forest were signed into effect, for public safety purposes, on July 31 by Forest Supervisor Alice Carlton. The Pacific Crest Trail and Bucks Lake Trail are impacted by this closure order. Go to [www.fs.fed.us/r6/plumas/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/plumas/) for more information on the forest closure Order No. 08-08.

**FIRE FACTS: Started:** July 29, 2008; **Cause:** Under investigation; **Location:** 20 miles West of Quincy, CA **Resources:** 13 hand crews, 8 helicopters (air support is being shared with the Canyon Complex), 33 engines, 4 dozers, 4 water tenders, and 516 total personnel.

**SAFETY CONCERNS:** Multiple air resources, historic mining sites, firefighter fatigue and steep, rocky terrain with numerous standing dead trees.

**RESOURCE CONCERNS:** Protection of wilderness values, water quality in wild and scenic rivers, sensitive species habitat and scenic/roadless areas by utilizing minimum disturbance practices.

**VALUES AT RISK:** CA State Highway 70, Feather National Scenic Byway, railroad corridor, communications site on Red Hill, power lines servicing the community of Quincy, structures to the NW and Bucks Lake Wilderness, sensitive species, high value timber and archaeological sites.

**WEATHER:** Very little change in weather or fire behavior expected today. An inversion is expected to break around noon, which will help the smoke to dissipate. Increased winds by 5 mph expected on Saturday with little change in direction. Temps expected to be 85-95F and relative humidity 15-25% during the day on Saturday.

**COOPERATING AGENCIES & PARTNERS:** Plumas County Sheriff, California Highway Patrol and Cal Trans Plumas and other resources.