

## Deer Creek wildfire at 60 percent containment

A well-equipped army of some 2,000 wildland and structural firefighters battled the Deer Creek Conflagration in Selma to 60 percent containment as of Tuesday morning, Aug. 30.

Indications were that the holocaust, which came under the Oregon Conflagration Act late Thursday, Aug. 25, is to be controlled soon. Under the act, statewide fire-fighting resources were made available.

As of Tuesday, handcrews were establishing a 100-foot “cold zone” clearing around all residences. The number of firefighters overall had decreased as the severity of the emergency lessened.

At the height of the inferno, equipment included 11 helicopters, 12 bulldozers and more than 30 fire units.

The Boy Scout area at Lake Selmac was used as a fire camp for the horde of firefighters, with portable kitchens, shower trucks and other equipment.

Telephone service in the area was temporarily knocked out due to the fire.

The cause of the blaze, which began at a site on Lakeshore Drive on the afternoon of Aug. 25, is under investigation by two Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF) investigators. Officials have indicated that there is a potential for personal liability.

As of Tuesday, 1,548 acres of grass, brush and some timber had burned; and five homes and seven outbuildings had been destroyed on the northwest side of Selma and into the Davis Creek Watershed, according to the Oregon State Fire Marshal.

Two homes and six outbuildings were damaged. Only a few minor injuries to firefighters were reported during the fire, which is on mixed private and Bureau of Land Management land.

Among those offering to help burned-out families is Darn Near Everything in Cave Junction. Many items have been donated, and they are there for the asking, said

Carol Gilmore.

The American Red Cross established an emergency evacuation center at Illinois Valley High School, operating it until Sunday morning, Aug. 28. Several people were accommodated.

Some residents voluntarily evacuated the area of the fire, but road closures and evacuation notices were lifted as of Monday the 29th.

Josephine County Sheriff’s Office, JoCo Search And Rescue, and the county emergency services office assisted with evacuation and traffic control, as did county public works.

ODF and Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) personnel Thursday initially responded to Lakeshore, but the fast-moving, wind-driven flames rushed from the starting point to Deer Creek and jumped the road; then rapidly spread.

A Rogue Valley Task Force was called in to bolster IVFD, Rural/Metro Fire Dept., and ODF. Responding were agencies including those from Grants Pass, Medford and Rogue River.

After the act was invoked, equipment and personnel came from many areas of the state, including Coos and Klamath counties. In addition, ODF brought equipment from many areas.

Those losing their homes or outbuildings and animals, or all of them, included Kiley and Molly Kitchens, Fred Krauss, Bonnie Lansdown, David Sutherland, James Simmons and Larry Watkins.

Some residents lost barns full of hay. Krauss lost an 1800s structure that contained Civil War and logging memorabilia.

Neighbors have worked to console and aid each other. In addition, residents have made many signs thanking and praising firefighters. IVFD has an information center at its Selma station on Hwy. 199.

Shop Smart Food Warehouse and Wal-Mart were among stores donating food and drink for firefighters.



Proving the adage that you can take a fire horse out of harness, but you can’t keep it from responding when the fire alarm goes off, Joe Feldhaus, who was with Illinois Valley Fire District until earlier this year, used some of his skill Thursday, Aug. 25 as a wildfire



spread from Lakeshore Drive to Deer Creek Road. The photo below Feldhaus shows some of the oncoming flames. Photo at top right (by Char Huffman) provides evidence of the intensity of the blaze. (Photos at left by ‘Illinois Valley News’)

## Most conservative/liberal cities? Survey shows

Detroit, Mich. is the most liberal U.S. city, and Provo, Utah the most conservative, according to a new nationwide study released by the nonpartisan Bay Area Center for Voting Research (BACVR) in Berkeley, Calif.

In all, the BACVR researchers examined voting patterns of 237 American cities with populations of more than 100,000 and ranked them each on liberal and conservative scales. The list of America’s most liberal cities is dominated by cities with large African American populations concentrated in the Northeast, Midwest, and California.

Conversely, the study found that the staunchest conservative cities are clustered in the South and interior West, and have extremely low numbers of African American residents.

“Detroit and Provo epitomize America’s political, economic and racial polarization,” said Janet Kim, a BACVR researcher. “As the most-conservative

city in America, Provo is overwhelming white and solidly middle class. This is in stark contrast to Detroit, which is impoverished, Black and the most liberal.”

Gary, Ind., a rust belt former steel town, comes in as America’s second-most liberal city, followed by Berkeley, which ranks third. Washington, D.C. comes in as the fourth-most liberal, and Oakland, Calif. comes in fifth.

On the list of the nation’s most conservative cities, Texas cements its reputation as America’s most rock-ribbed state, having three cities in the top five. Lubbock and Abilene, Texas rank as the second- and third-most conservative cities, respectively, followed by Hialeah, Fla., fourth place; and Plano, Texas in fifth.

America’s 25 Most Liberal Cities (in descending order) from one to 25:

Detroit, Mich.  
Gary, Ind.  
Berkeley, Calif.  
Washington, D.C.

Oakland, Calif.  
Inglewood, Calif.  
Newark, N.J.  
Cambridge, Mass.  
San Francisco, Calif.  
Flint, Mich.  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Hartford, Conn.  
Paterson, N.J.  
Baltimore, Md.  
New Haven, Conn.  
Seattle, Wash.  
Chicago, Ill.  
Philadelphia, Penn.  
Birmingham, Ala.  
St. Louis, Mo.  
New York, N.Y.  
Providence, R.I.  
Minneapolis, Minn.  
Boston, Mass.  
Buffalo, N.Y.

America’s 25 Most Conservative Cities (in descending order)

Provo, Utah  
Lubbock, Texas  
Abilene, Texas  
Hialeah, Fla.  
Plano, Texas  
Colorado Springs, Colo.  
Gilbert, Ariz.  
Bakersfield, Calif.  
Lafayette, La.  
Orange, Calif.  
Escondido, Calif.  
Allentown, Pa.  
Mesa, Ariz.  
Cape Coral, Fla.  
Garden Grove, Calif.  
Simi Valley, Calif.  
Corona, Calif.  
Clearwater, Fla.  
West Valley City, Utah  
Oklahoma City, Okla.  
Overland Park, Kan.  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Huntington Beach, Calif.

## Smith, Wyden applaud tougher federal anti-meth law

The Combat Meth Act approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee will not pre-empt tougher state laws restricting access to cold medicines containing methamphetamine precursors, said U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Gordon Smith (R-Ore.).

The pre-emption provision, opposed by both senators, was removed from the bill before a committee OK.

“Federal legislation is desperately needed to confront the country’s growing methamphetamine crisis, but it should not restrict

Oregon’s ability to protect the health and safety of their citizens as we see fit,” said Wyden. “Now the Combat Meth Act provides a proper baseline for aggressive anti-meth efforts nationwide.”

“It’s critical that we work hand-in-hand with state and local law enforcement,” Smith said. “They are on the front lines of the battle against meth, and I want to give them the tools to get the job done.”

Methamphetamine is one of the most deadly, fiercely addictive and rapidly spreading drugs in the

United States. During the past decade, while the law enforcement officers continue to close record numbers of clandestine labs, methamphetamine use in communities has increased by as much as 300 percent.

The Combat Meth Act would make critical funding available to states, including Oregon, for equipment, training for law enforcement agents and prosecutors to bring legal actions against meth offenders and clean up meth labs. It also would provide treatment grants for those affected by this dan-

gerous drug.

Wyden and Smith joined U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Jim Talent (R-Mo.) earlier this year is sponsoring the Combat Meth Act.

It not only restricts access to cold medicine containing methamphetamine precursors, but also provides resources and tools to help law enforcement officials and prosecutors pursue producers and distributors of meth, seeks to increase community awareness of the meth problem, and establishes new treatment options.

**OFF WE GO - Three Grants Pass-area youngsters made solo flights at the Kerby Airpark Saturday, Aug. 27 with the craft they built under supervision by Rogue Valley Flyers. Participants are (from left) Jessica Green, 12; Richard Smith and Jonathan Rumfallo, both 14. They were in the Aero Youth Program offered at no cost by the club. Anyone younger than 19 can apply. Phone 471-0458 or use rvfgp.org. (I.V. News photo)**



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