

KFD lends a hand at Bootleg Fire



BY MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

After enduring one of the worst fire seasons in state history last summer, Keizer Fire District (KFD) has already provided assistance with several intense wildfires that have occurred throughout Oregon.

“It has been busy. We have needed to fill in for a lot of guys. But we are used to it by now,” said Brian Butler, KFD’s Division Chief of Operations.

When the Bootleg Fire in Southern Oregon started on Tuesday, July 6, KFD Division Chief Ryan Russell was selected

Fire crews from Marion County, formed into Task Force 16, were relieved Saturday, July 17, from service on the Bootleg Fire. Submitted photo

as the lead of Task Force 16 for Marion County — which took five, three-person fire trucks from Marion County Fire District #1 (MCFD1) Jefferson Fire, Mt. Angel Fire, Silverton Fire, and Idana-Detroit Fire to the scene near Klamath Falls.

The destructive Bootleg Fire has garnered national attention over the last two weeks as the nation’s largest wildfire, burning over 500 square miles of forest and grasslands — one of the largest in state history.

The ongoing drought and recent heatwave has likely played a large role in the intensity of the Bootleg Fire — which had grown so big and hot that it began to affect winds and disrupt the atmosphere.

“The fire is so large and generating so much energy and extreme heat that it’s changing the weather,” said Marcus Kauffman, a spokesman for the state forestry department. “Normally the weather predicts what the fire will do. In this case, the fire

They are working incredibly hard, doing shifts from 5 a.m. until 10 p.m.

— **BRIAN BUTLER**
KFD Division Chief of Operations

is predicting what the weather will do.” Gov. Kate Brown, in a press conference regarding the wildfires around the state, said that “what is very clear is that no

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