# Wildfires burn around Oregon; 4,500 people evacuated

### **By GILLIAN FLACCUS** Associated Press

PORTLAND — Wildfires in Oregon are burning an area roughly equivalent to half the state of Rhode Island, affecting air quality throughout the state and forcing the evacuations of more than 4,500 people, fire authorities said.

Two dozen fires in southern, eastern and central parts of the state had scorched a total of 571 square miles.

And although fire crews appreciated cooler weather and some fog on some fire lines, they are bracing for triple-digit temperatures and the return of windy conditions and extremely low humidity later this week and into the weekend, said Terry



The Milli Fire near Sisters.

Krasko, a U.S. Forest Service spokesman.

The largest fire is near the coastal town of Brookings near the California border. 196-square-mile That

blaze is 5 percent contained and 4,568 people have fled their homes. Firefighters have managed to carve out a containment line along the southwestern edge of the fire to protect the 6,500-person town that will be bolstered by the arrival Wednesday of six Oregon National Guard teams.

The fire started July 12 from a lightning strike in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest but grew rapidly last week.

"That 5 percent doesn't sound like a lot but it's very critical to this town and we feel very good about that. There have been people asking, 'What about the other side of the fire, what about the east?" Krasko said. "But we have to put our efforts first where the homes and businesses are — where people live. These are our family and friends.'

Also in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest,

operating for more than 30

years, produces about 3.1 mil-

but further east, a complex of fires forced the evacuation of six homes Tuesday in a rural community called Joe Bar near the Applegate River Valley. Several of the fires have merged and firefighters have divided the largest ones into three areas of attack, fire authorities said.

About two dozen blazes all began on Aug. 12 after a lightning storm in the area, but most were put out quickly by crews.

In central Oregon, a 34-square-mile fire west of Sisters is now 44 percent contained. No mandatory evacuations are in effect.

Fires statewide continue to generate thick smoke that's

affecting air quality in southern and central Oregon.

Smoke forced the Oregon Shakespeare Festival to cancel its outdoor performance on Tuesday.

Nine cities, including Bend, Medford, Ashland and Klamath Falls, had unhealthy air conditions on Wednesday, according to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Smoke from all the blazes has also converged on Portland, which is several hundred miles away, and has obscured the iconic view of Mount Hood.

On Tuesday, some Portland residents reported finding ash on their parked cars.





## Mass fish escape puts salmon farm on hold

#### Associated Press

SEATTLE — Officials have put on hold Cooke Aquaculture's application to build a new marine salmon farm in the Strait of Juan de Fuca as the company deals with the escape of thousands of fish from another facility.

Canada-based Cooke Aquaculture asked for a postponement for an upcoming hearing for a project permit, said Clallam County planning manager Steve Gray.

"Given the circumstance, we mutually agreed that that would be best," he said.

Cooke's net-pen holding about 305,000 Atlantic salmon in Skagit County failed Aug. 19. Thousands of the non-native fish have escaped into local rivers and waterways, raising concerns about its potential impact on native salmon.

State and tribal officials have urged people to catch as many as possible to protect native stocks of wild salmon. The Lummi Nation last week declared a state of emergency.

Over the weekend Gov. Jay Inslee placed a moratorium on net pen permits until an investigation into the mishap is completed.

Canada-based Cooke is proposing to build 14 floating circular net pens about 1.5 miles offshore. It would move current operations from Port Angeles Harbor and increase production by 20 percent. The company operates eight salmon farms in the state that it acquired last year.

The project requires several permits from local, state and federal agencies.

The company asked that a Sept. 7 hearing before the Clallam County hearing examiner be canceled to allow it to focus on the emergency response effort, Gray said. It also wanted to work with the county to evaluate next steps for its permit application.

"We will certainly look at any new information that comes out of the Cypress Island investigation by the state," said Clallam County's Gray. "That kind of information can be looked at if there's relevance to this proposal.'

Cooke has recovered about 141,600 salmon, state officials who mobilized a joint command response to the escape over the weekend said Wednesday.

The Lummi tribe said its anglers have caught another 20,000 fish.

Cooke and its salvage contractor have removed three nets from the damaged site off Cypress Island farm.

The facility, which has been

to state officials. Clatsop Post 12 Spaghetti Dinner with Salad and Garlic Bre



\$8.00 6PM "Karaoke Dave"

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> Advance discount tickets available at: www.nwcwc.net/fort-stevens.html

> > Evening listings

**THURSDAY** 

THE DAILY ASTORIAN



ΤΗυ	RSD/	٩Y	EVENING				A - Charter Aste	oria/ Seaside - L - Ch	arter Long Beach					AUGUST 31
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65 FN			(5:00) Identity Thief J				/lelissa McCarthy, Ar	nanda Peet, Jason Bate				ynolds, Robert Patrick,		(:50) FXM Presents
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62 US			Law & Order: S.V.U.					U. "Intersecting Lives"			Queen "La Última		The Sinner "Part V	
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64 TC			5:00) Butterfield 8 Elizabeth Taylor. [**** Cat on a Hot Tin Roof ('58, Dra) Paul Newman, Burl Ives, Elizabeth Taylor. [*** Raintree County (1958, Drama) Eva Marie Saint, Elizabeth Taylor, Montgomery Clift. 2:30) It ('90, Hor) [:40) ** Lake Placid (1999, Action) Bridget Fonda, Oliver Platt, Bill Pullman. [*** Mad Max: Fury Road (2015, Action) Charlize Theron, Zoe Kravitz, Tom Hardy. [The Diabolical (2015, Horror) Ali Larte											
65 SY														5, Horror) All Larter.
162 RF	<b>U</b> (	162)	SF Machinery	Small Town	Rural America 'Live		Steve Lantvit	Rural Eve. News	Market Journal	GA Farm Monitor	SF Wachinery	Small Town	Time Life Library	