

WAYS TO HELP

A disaster has stricken our community – and the community responds.

From all corners of Grant County, and well beyond, people and groups have scurried to the rescue, opening their doors, their wallets, their property, and offering endless sweat and time to assist those in need due to the Canyon Creek Complex fire. Here is a list of most of the resources the Eagle has been able to compile, that have arisen from the ashes of this tragedy.

People are advised to call ahead for any of the following to see about current availability and needs.

RED CROSS

A Red Cross emergency shelter has been established at the Mt. Vernon Community Center. Staff there are assisting with snacks, meals, overnight stays, mental health help and more.

To make monetary donations, contact the American Red Cross Mountain River Chapter at redcross.org.cascades, in person at the shelter, or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. Checks need to state "Canyon Creek Complex fire" to assure that the donation will be directed to the local relief cause.

DONATIONS

- Old West Federal Credit Union has established a deposit account, "Community Fire Relief Fund," to directly benefit local residents affected by the fire. Donations may be made in person at any Old West branch, by mail to 650 W. Main St., John Day, OR 97845, or over the phone via credit card by calling 541-575-0264 or 1-888-575-0264.
- Mt. View Mini Mart, 211 Front St., Prairie City, donation jar. 541-820-4477.
- Muzzy's 1-2-3, John Day Plaza, donation jar. 541-575-1233.
- Grant County Fairgrounds, John Day, accepting monetary donations only now. 541-575-1900. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For after hours needs, an emergency cell number will be posted on the Pavilion door.
- Silver Spur, 150 Ingle St., Mt. Vernon, accepting donations. Clothing, food and supplies
- United Methodist Church thrift shop and food bank, 126 N.W. Canton St., John Day, has food and clothing available for those in need. 541-575-1326.
- Shepherd's Closet, Assembly of God, 330 W. Front St., Prairie City, clothing and other needs. 541-820-3682.

EVACUATION CENTERS

- Cornerstone Christian Fellowship, 139 N.E. Dayton St., John Day. 541-575-2180.
- Living Word Christian Center, Highway 26, Mt. Vernon. 541-932-4910.
- Strawberry Grange, 204 N. McHaley, Prairie City. 541-820-3701 or 541-820-3530.
- Depot Park, Main and Bridge streets, Prairie City. 541-820-3605.
- Teen Center, 145 W. Front St., Prairie City. Prairie Baptist Church, 541-820-3696.

EMERGENCY LODGING

- Long Creek Lodge, has room for a family displaced by the fire. 541-421-9212.
- Deborah Montgomery, Prairie City area, has a bedroom with queen bed and crib, and a fenced yard with about five kennels for dogs. 541-820-4719, or 541-620-1846.
- Leslie Ricker Bennett, in John Day, has a fifth wheel to loan out to a couple or a couple with a child.
- Rose and Darrell Howe, Monument have a cab over camper and a camp trailer to give to a displace family or person.
- Krista and Mike Griffin, managers of the John Day Inn, have a list of contacts in the immediate area who have rooms or other lodging for people working on the fires or evacuees. 541-575-9000.

ANIMAL/LIVESTOCK BOARDING AND NEEDS

- John Day River Veterinary Center 541-932-4428, or 541-620-8247.
- Grant County Fairgrounds 541-575-1900.
- Butch Sagaser, Mt. Vernon, 541-932 4753 (home) or 541-620 0238 (cell).
- Shawn Duncan, 541-620-0886.
- McDaniel Ranch, Indian Creek, 541-620-0242.
- Squeeze In, for pet food, 541-575-1045.
- Lisa Green Pereira has a trailer and can help with horses.
- Pierre Jones Ranch west of Mt. Vernon, animal boarding.
- Broken Hearts Animal Rescue, Monument. 541-934-2746.
- Sherri Giffin, has room for a couple of horses or dogs.
- Loop Ranch has resources to help with livestock needs, corrals, pasture, hay. Call Brad Armstrong, 541-620-2007.
- A Union County resident is organizing hay donations. 541-805-9849.
- Kristin Currin of La Grande, seeking donations and those in need. 541-805-9849.
- Jim Hamsher in Prairie City, accepting donations and delivering to those in need. Also can help with moving horses. 541-620-2861.

MEALS

- Squeeze-In Restaurant, John Day, free meals for evacuees.
- Silver Spur, Mt. Vernon, free meals for evacuees.
- The Corner Cup in John Day is offering free house brew coffee to all firefighters and relief workers.

Other assistance

- Dianna Church is offering to help with laundry needs of the victims. Contact her on Facebook or at 541-820-3576.
- Gleason Pool, 250 N.W. Canton St., John Day, is open FREE to firefighters this week.
- Old West Federal Credit Union members who have lost homes or have been evacuated, can contact the bank to get new temporary checks and/or debit cards.
- Tidewater Contractors is open for water trucks needing to fill up, down at the lower bridge. 541-932-4888.
- Kevin Moles of Marciel Well Drilling and Pumps, offering assistance to people in burned out areas who need to get water going again. A 240 volt generator is needed. 541-620-1936.
- Norco medical supplies, 437 W. Main St., John Day, for oxygen tanks and other health needs. 541-575-0372.
- King's Discount Store, John Day Plaza, is offering discounts for evacuees and firefighters. 541-575-2760.
- Best Western, 315 W. Main St., John Day, toy donation collection for children of all ages, displaced by the fire. 541-575-1700.
- Umpqua Bank has relaunched its Wildfire Relief Lending Program, offering access to personal loans up to \$2,500 at a reduced interest rate to bank customers living within 25 miles of an Umpqua Bank, in a disaster area of Level 3 or higher mandatory evacuation. Visit any Umpqua Bank, call 1-888-702-7759, or visit www.umpquabank.com.

Any one with additional resources can email cheryl@bmeagle.com, and the items will be added to this list online at www.MyEagleNews.com.



Photo by Bryan Nelson

This photo was taken going north on Highway 395 towards John Day at the hairpin turn before Vance Creek Road.

Large blazes create strain on resources

Canyon Creek Complex nabs top priority

By GEORGE PLAVEN
For the Blue Mountain Eagle

Crews are scrambling to gain control of a nightmarish wildfire that's devoured more than two dozen homes, scattered livestock and knocked out power less than a mile south of John Day.

The Canyon Creek Complex has grown to 43,738 acres since it was sparked Wednesday by lightning and spread dramatically by high winds that swept through Eastern Oregon on Friday.

At least 26 homes have burned to the ground in the fire's path of destruction.

"I've lived here 71 years, and this is the worst I've ever seen," said John Day resident Mary Jane Allen.

On Monday, the fire continued to move down Little Canyon Mountain to the south and east into the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness in the Malheur National Forest. Charli Bowden, fire information officer, said firefighters are digging line around populated areas to protect what structures they can.

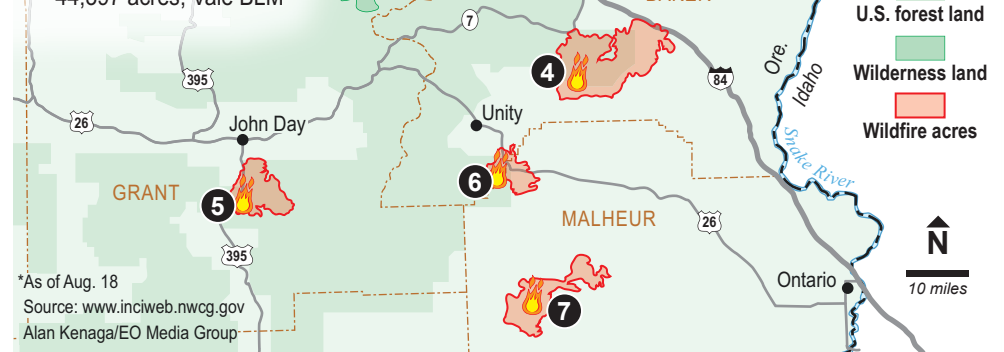
"Our number one concern is structural protection," Bowden said.

More than 200 residents have been told to evacuate immediately or prepare to evacuate. Those who stay must deal with borderline unhealthy air and have been asked to conserve electricity, where possible.

Air quality in John Day is now at a moderate health risk based on the amount of smoke from the fire. Larry Calkins, air quality specialist with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, said fine particles from the smoke can get stuck in lungs and trigger asthma or other health problems.

Large fire incidents in N.E. Oregon

- 1. Grizzly Bear Complex:** 2,258 acres, Umatilla National Forest
- 2. Phillips Creek Fire:** 2,601 acres, Umatilla National Forest
- 3. Eagle Complex:** 2,217 acres, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
- 4. Cornet-Windy Ridge Fire:** 99,270 acres, ODF Northeast District
- 5. Canyon Creek Complex:** 43,738 acres, Malheur National Forest
- 6. Eldorado Fire:** 20,500 acres, ODF Northeast District
- 7. Bendire Complex:** 44,397 acres, Vale BLM



*As of Aug. 18
Source: www.inciweb.nwcg.gov
Alan Kenaga/EO Media Group

ma or other health problems.

People at highest risk include children, the elderly and anyone with respiratory or heart disease, Calkins said. He advised residents to stay inside and not overexert themselves in smoky conditions.

Meanwhile, 106 customers are without electricity as the Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative has lost miles of power line and poles in the fire. Ned Ratterman, director of engineering and operations for the co-op, said it will take an extended period of time to restore power in the region.

There are four transmission lines that feed into John Day

See AREA, Page A10



Krista Griffin captured this shot facing northeast out of John Day on Friday afternoon, Aug. 14.

Grant Co. says 'Thank you!'

By Cheryl Hoefler
Blue Mountain Eagle

They are rays of hope and encouragement springing up through the smoky skies and distress on the ground.

Signs expressing thanks to crews battling the Can-

yon Creek Complex fire have begun to spring up in communities throughout Grant County.

About 575 firefighters are working the fire, which is currently over 43,000 acres in size and 0 percent contained.



Stacey Schuetze created and posted this sign to express her gratitude to all the firefighters.