



Oregon

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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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"Stewardship in
Forestry"

Wallowa County lightning fires August 5, 2021

Wallowa, OR- Numerous smoke reports have been received across Wallowa County this afternoon. Firefighters have been responding to multiple fires caused by the thunderstorms which passed through earlier today.

The Wise Fire, located near Smith Mountain Road was reported at 1:50 p.m. This fire is estimated to be 75 acres. Helicopters, single-engine air tankers (SEATs), and heavy air tankers are being used on this incident. Wallowa County Sheriff's Office has issued a LEVEL 2 (GET SET) evacuation order for the Smith Mountain Road.

The Saw Dust Pile Fire is estimated to be 4 acres and is located in the Johnson Spring area, approximately 8 miles northwest of Wallowa. This fire has been contained. Crews will remain on scene to strengthen the fire line and mop-up heat close to the line. Another report was received of a 5-acre fire near Maxville. Fire crews and a bulldozer are on scene and have the forward spread of the fire stopped. Additional small fires have been reported and responded to. Fire managers anticipate receiving additional reports as storms continue to impact the area.

Tonight's forecast calls for the potential of additional severe thunderstorms. These storms could produce frequent cloud to ground lightning and may bring gusty winds. Fires can be reported by calling Blue Mountain Interagency Fire Center at (541)963-7171 or by dialing 9-1-1.

ODF's Northeast Oregon District is in **Regulated Use Closure or Public Use Restrictions**. Restrictions can be found at <http://bmidc.org/restrictions.shtml>. Fire conditions are **Extreme** throughout the region. Please use caution to help prevent forest fires. Fuel conditions in many areas are critical for active fire behavior and fire growth.

Contact the Oregon Department of Forestry-Northeast Oregon Fire Prevention Information Line for more information on ODF's Public Use Restrictions: (541) 975-3027

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