



UTAH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Michael L. Smith

PRESS RELEASE – BALD MOUNTAIN/POLE CREEK FIRES - SEPTEMBER 16, 2018

The Pole Creek and Bald Mountain Fires are still being actively fought in Utah and Juab Counties. Road closures and mandatory evacuation orders are still in place. As of early on September 16, 2018, total size varies, but is estimated near 80,000 acres with 2% containment. The Great Basin and Rocky Mountain Type 1 Incident Management Teams are working cooperatively in fighting these fires. 6,000 people have been evacuated, effecting 2,000 homes. Fire officials say today is a Red Flag day because of high winds and low humidity. They say the forecast calls slightly higher humidity and significantly lower winds in the coming few days. This website gives more specific information about both fires: inciweb.nwcg.gov

To receive alerts and updates in your area go to this website: alerts.utahcounty.gov. The information to set up an account is easy to follow. You can subscribe to different alerts for most cities in Utah County. Also follow your city Facebook or other social media page, or the Utah County Sheriff's Office Facebook page. You may also follow Sergeant Spencer Cannon's Twitter account @SGTCannonPIO.

Fire officials anticipate **closures and evacuations will remain in place at least through today, but they could not estimate when they those restrictions will be lifted.** The following evacuations and closures are still in place:

- Santaquin Canyon is closed.
- Payson Canyon is closed.
- Nebo Loop Road at SR-132 in Nephi Canyon is closed.
- US Highway 89, in Spanish Fork Canyon, is closed from mile 312, at Thistle Junction, to mile 298, at the Utah /Sanpete County line.

-Diamond Fork Canyon and Sheep Creek are still under pre-evacuation notice.

-MANDATORY EVACUATION STILL IN EFFECT – PLEASE ABIDE BY CLOSURE AND EVACUATION NOTICES:

- All residents living along US HWY-89 in the area from Nebo Creek to Thistle Junction.
- All residents in the Covered Bridge community near the mouth of Spanish Fork Canyon.
- All residents living in the cities of Woodland Hills and Elk Ridge.
- For residents in these areas who have urgent need to get to their home (For medications or to remove pets or livestock, for example), access points are set up at 11200 S Woodland Hills Drive for Woodland Hills, and 11200 S Elk Ridge Drive (1600 West) for Elk Ridge. Access to Covered Bridge may not be available because of ongoing fire operations. A Deputy will escort those who have these needs.

For questions contact Sergeant Spencer Cannon, Public Information Officer, Utah County Sheriff's Office. (801)404-1912. Twitter: @SGTCannonPIO