

## **INCIDENT POPULATION PROTECTION PLAN**

### **Big Cougar Fire**

Revised: August 08, 2014

Shawn Pearson's North Idaho/Northern Rockies Incident Management Team

In the event of significant movement by the Big Cougar fire to the north, along the Snake River or east along the Salmon River, it is likely that it will threaten several structures and subdivisions.

### **PROTECTION STAGES**

#### **STAGE 1 "Ready"**

Protection **ALERT**: CONTACTS and BRIEFINGS of persons within affected area(s).

**This stage will be implemented under the following conditions:**

This stage was achieved through several methods:

1. A clearly visible smoke column at Big Cougar Creek about a mile west of the Snake River and along Wapshilla Ridge.
2. The amount of fire protection activity in the area,
3. Public Information trap lines and public meetings.

#### **STAGE 2 "Set"**

Evacuation **WARNING**: Good probability of a need to evacuate. Recommend movement of people requiring extraordinary care, large mobile property and livestock (if feasible).

**This stage will be implemented under the following conditions:**

#### **Snake River Zone Upper** (Includes China Gardens)

China Gardens: Residents were warned by the Idaho Department of Lands that they were in a stage 2 evacuation warning on the evening of August 3. Several Residents decided to voluntarily self-evacuate the same evening; up to 3 caretakers did remain at China Gardens to protect structures from the fire.

#### **Snake River Zone Lower** (North of China Gardens to Captain Johns Creek)

All structures located north of China Gardens to Captain Johns Creek will be in a Stage 2 evacuation starting the morning of August 5, 2014. The Incident Management Team will contact the Nez Perce County Sherriff who will then carry out the evacuation warnings. The sheriff was briefed and agreed on the Stage 2 evacuation warning at 0845 on August 5, 2014.

#### **Salmon River Zone** (from the Snake River upstream to Oxbow)

In the event the fire becomes established in the Salmon River drainage and it is evident the fire will spread unchecked toward structures. A request for a Stage 2 evacuation warning for the residents located along the Salmon River will be made to the Nez Perce County Sheriff.

#### **Waha/Redbird Zone**

In the event the fire becomes established in the Captain John Creek drainage a request for a Stage 2 evacuation warning for the residents located in the Waha and Red Bird subdivisions will be made to the Nez Perce County Sheriff. Stage 2 evacuation warning was issued for the Waha/Redbird Zone August 7 at approximately 0900.

#### **Deer/Eagle Zone**

In the event the fire crosses China Creek and threatens to burn into Eagle Creek. A request for a Stage 2 evacuation warning for the residents located in Eagle Creek and upper Deer Creek will be made to the Nez Perce County Sheriff. Stage 2 evacuation warning was issued for the Deer/Eagle Zone August 8 at approximately 1130 hours.

#### **STAGE 3 "Go"**

Evacuation **REQUEST**: Occupants of the affected area(s) are asked to leave within a specified time period, by a pre-designated route(s) as determined by Operations and the Incident Commanders.

#### **This stage will be implemented under the following conditions:**

##### **Snake River Zone Upper** (Includes China Gardens)

China Gardens: Residents were warned by the Idaho Department of Lands that they were in a stage 2 evacuation warning on the evening of August 3. Several Residents decided to voluntarily self-evacuate the same evening.

##### **Snake River Zone Lower** (North of China Gardens to Captain Johns Creek)

As the fire moves north from Corral Creek, Operations in conjunction with the Incident Commanders, will assess the fire behavior and at their discretion request the Nez Perce County Sheriff's Office to issue a Stage 3 Evacuation Request for residents north of Corral Creek to Captain Johns Creek that are determined to be at risk. The sheriff was briefed and agreed on the Stage 3 evacuation order at 0710 on August 6, 2014. Residents at several cabins did remain on-site to protect their own structures as the fire passed.

Evacuation **REQUEST**: Occupants of the affected area(s) are asked to leave within a specified time period, by a pre-designated route(s) as determined by Operations and the Incident Commanders. Perimeter roadblocks will be established.

##### **Salmon River Zone** (from the Snake River upstream to Oxbow)

In the case of unchecked fire spread upstream in the Salmon River drainage with obvious potential to involve structures. Operations in conjunction with the Incident Commanders will assess the fire

behavior and at their discretion request the Nez Perce County Sheriff's Office to issue a Stage 3 Evacuation Request for residents in the Salmon River Zone that are determined to be at risk. The sheriff was briefed and agreed on the Stage 3 evacuation order at 1130 on August 8, 2014.

Evacuation **REQUEST**: Occupants of the affected area(s) are asked to leave within a specified time period, by a pre-designated route(s) as determined by Operations and the Incident Commanders. Perimeter roadblocks will be established.

#### **Waha/Redbird Zone**

In the event the fire escapes containment lines in lower Captain John Creek and it is obvious it will spread up drainage unchecked. Operations in conjunction with the Incident Commanders will assess the fire behavior and at their discretion request the Nez Perce County Sheriff's Office to issue a Stage 3 Evacuation Request for residents in the Waha Redbird Zone that are determined to be at risk.

Evacuation **REQUEST**: Occupants of the affected area(s) are asked to leave within a specified time period, by a pre-designated route(s) as determined by Operations and the Incident Commanders. Perimeter roadblocks will be established.

#### **Deer/Eagle Zone**

In the event the fire burns unchecked into Eagle Creek and it is obvious it will spread up drainage toward structures. Operations in conjunction with the Incident Commanders will assess the fire behavior and at their discretion request the Nez Perce County Sheriff's Office to issue a Stage 3 Evacuation Request for residents in the Deer/Eagle Zone that are determined to be at risk.

Evacuation **REQUEST**: Occupants of the affected area(s) are asked to leave within a specified time period, by a pre-designated route(s) as determined by Operations and the Incident Commanders. Perimeter roadblocks will be established.