

Western US Wildfires: August 5, 2021

California's newest raging wildfire is forcing thousands to evacuate. It sparked as nearly 100 large fires are burning in the US

A newly ignited fire in Northern California has forced thousands of residents to evacuate their homes as the US fights 96 large active fires that have scorched nearly two million acres.

The River Fire, raging in Nevada and Placer counties in California, has destroyed or damaged an estimated 40 structures since it started Wednesday, CalFire Deputy Chief Jim Hudson said during a news briefing. It has already torn through 1,400 acres and was not contained at all Wednesday evening.

In Placer County, nearly 2,400 people are under evacuation, Placer County Sheriff's Office spokesman Nelson Resendes said. In Nevada County, at least 4,200 residents are under an evacuation order or warning, Nevada County Sheriff Shannan Moon said.

"If you receive an evacuation warning, please go. And if you receive an order, get out. Do not take your chances ... We do not need you in there; you're taking your life in your hands," Placer County Sheriff Devon Bell said Wednesday at the news conference.

Meanwhile, California's largest active wildfire – the Dixie Fire – has torn through Greenville, a town in Plumas County, also in the state's northern region. Video of the fire shows flames ripping through the wooded terrain, cars charred, and structures burning – including a gas station along a main road.

"The Dixie Fire pushed into Greenville Wednesday and early indications are there has been significant damage," California Governor's Office of Emergency Services spokesman Brian Ferguson told CNN in a phone interview.

Residents of the town were warned to evacuate immediately.

"If you are still in the Greenville area, you are in imminent danger and you MUST leave now!! ... If you remain, emergency responders may not be able to assist you," the Plumas County Sheriff's Office said in a message.

Wednesday evening, responders were still working to get everyone out.

"Right now, there are still a lot of people unfortunately in Greenville that did not evacuate. And so, we are having to deal with that ... and get all those folks out," said Jake Cagle, the operations sections chief for California's Incident Management Team.

Currently, there are 11 large active fires in the Golden State that have seared 425,944 acres so far, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

Hawaii battles its largest wildfire yet

Even being surrounded by water hasn't kept Hawaii free from fires.

Two homes have been destroyed in the Mana Road Fire, Hawaii's largest wildfire on record, the state's Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) said.

The fire has burned between 40,000 and 50,000 acres, fueled by wind gusts that topped 50 mph over the weekend, said Mike Walker, Fire Protection Forester with the DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

The fire is now 75% contained, but the fight isn't over, Walker said. "Firefighters will probably be there a few more days securing the line and tending to any hotspots they find."

While most people think of Hawaii as a tropical place, the leeward side of the island is drier, and Hawaii has a year-round fire season, Walker explained. Climate change has contributed to greater risk of fires in fallow agricultural lands, he said.

"The wet seasons are getting wetter and this creates a lot more fuel in the grass lands in these old agricultural lands and the drought that follows the wet season cures the grass until its ripe for burning," Walker said.

He cited the decline of agricultural lands as adding this significant fuel to the landscape, which devoid of crops is rich with invasive species of grass from Africa.

The cause of the Mana Road Fire has not been determined, but Walker noted that natural fires are rare, and 99% of fires started in Hawaii are caused by humans.

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Website: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/05/weather/us-western-wildfires-thursday/index.html>

National News

August 5, 2021

Nine new large fires were reported yesterday, three in Washington, two in California and Oregon, and one in Idaho and Montana. Nationally, 100 large fires have burned 1,947,811 acres in 14 states. Several large fires in California displayed extreme fire behavior, with the Dixie Fire increasing by nearly 24,000 acres, the Monument and Antelope Fires adding more than 8,000 acres, and the McFarland Fire gaining about 5,100 acres.

Check out the [Predictive Services monthly seasonal outlook podcast](#) for August. Visit [Predictive Services at the National Interagency Coordination Center](#) for more information on current and expected weather conditions and fuels and fire danger advisories.

Each year, thousands of fires in the United States are caused by people. The major causes of these fires are from loss of control of debris burning; unattended and improperly extinguished or not extinguished campfires; and sparks or heat transfer from the use of vehicles and equipment like chain saws or recreational vehicles including trailers. Become a part of the solution. Learn more on how you can safely play and work around our natural resources on our public lands.

Prepare for wildfire - [Ready, Set, Go!](#)

Weather

An upper low will move into northern California with troughing extending from the Pacific Northwest through central California. Isolated to scattered mixed wet/dry thunderstorms are forecast across northern California, Oregon, eastern Washington, northern Great Basin, Northern Rockies, and northern Wyoming. Many of these storms will be fast moving and capable of strong to severe wind gusts in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and southwest Montana. Widespread elevated to critical fire weather conditions are also expected southeast of the upper low and east of the southern Oregon Cascades through the eastern Sierra and across the western Great Basin as westerly winds strengthen amid low relative humidity. Elevated conditions will extend into northern and eastern portions of the Great Basin as well. Hot and dry conditions are forecast for the southern Great Basin, southern California, Southwest, and Colorado. Isolated thunderstorms are expected in southeast Arizona and southwest Colorado with scattered showers and thunderstorms forecast for the western Great Lakes.

Daily statistics

Number of new large fires or emergency response <i>* New fires are identified with an asterisk</i>	9	States currently reporting large fires:
Number of active large fires <i>Total does not include individual fires within complexes.</i>	100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Montana (24) • Idaho (20) • Oregon (15) • California (12) • Washington (11) • Alaska (7) • Wyoming (3) • South Dakota (2) • Colorado (1) • Utah (1)
Acres from active fires	1,947,811	
Fires contained	2	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nevada (1)• Arizona (1)• Minnesota (1)• Hawaii (1)
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Website: <https://www.nifc.gov/fire-information/nfn>

To Get Help

Washington

- United Way 2-1-1: Dial 211 or visit: <https://wa211.org/>
- American Red Cross: 206.323.2345; <http://www.redcross.org/dc/washington>
- Office of Emergency Management Agency: 253.512.7000; <http://mil.wa.gov/emergency-management-division>

Oregon

- United Way 2-1-1: Dial 211 or visit: <https://www.211info.org/>
- American Red Cross: 503.284.1234 or visit: <http://www.redcross.org/local/oregon>
- Office of Emergency Management Agency: <http://www.oregon.gov/omd/oem/Pages/index.aspx>

California

- United Way 2-1-1: Dial 2-1-1 or visit: <https://www.211ca.org>
- American Red Cross: 916.993.7070 or visit: <https://www.redcross.org/local/california/northern-california-coastal.html>
- Office of Emergency Management: 916.657.9494 or visit: <http://www.caloes.ca.gov/home>

Nevada

- United Way 2-1-1: Dial 211 or visit: <http://www.nevada211.org/>
- American Red Cross: 775.856.1000 or visit: <https://www.redcross.org/local/nevada.html>
- Office of Emergency Management Agency: <http://dem.nv.gov/>

Hawaii

- United Way 2-1-1: Dial 2-1-1 or visit: <https://www.auw211.org/s/>
- American Red Cross: 808.734.2101 or visit: <http://www.redcross.org/local/hawaii>
- Texas Division of Emergency Management: 808.733.4300 or visit: <http://dod.hawaii.gov/hiema/>

Road Conditions

Call 511: The Department of Transportation offers its free 511 service for travel information and roadway conditions, including road and bridge closures, toll suspensions and major evacuation routes.

Washington Department of Transportation

- <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/>

<http://www.wsdot.com/traffic/trafficalerts/>

Oregon Department of Transportation

- <http://www.oregon.gov/odot/pages/index.aspx>

California Department of Transportation

- <https://dot.ca.gov/>

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Nevada Department of Transportation

- <http://www.nevadadot.com/>

Hawaii Department of Transportation

- (808) 587-2150; <https://hidot.hawaii.gov/>

Power Outage

To report an outage, call:

Washington

- Puget Sound Energy: 888.225.5773: <https://www.pse.com/outage/outage-map?srce=menu>
- Pacific Power: 888.221.7070: <https://www.pacificpower.net/outages-safety.html>

Oregon

- Pacific Power: 888.221.7070: <https://www.pacificpower.net/outages-safety.html>
- Portland General Electric Co.: 800.542.8818: <https://www.portlandgeneral.com/outages/outage-map>

California

- PG&E: 800.743.5000: <https://www.pge.com/>

Nevada

- NV Energy: 702.402.2900: <https://www.nvenergy.com/outages-and-emergencies/view-current-outages>

Hawaii

- Hawaiian electric: [808-548-7311](tel:808-548-7311); <https://www.hawaiielectric.com/safety-and-outages/power-outages>

Airport Closures

Passengers are urged to not come to the local airport unless your flight has been confirmed. If your flight was canceled, please call your airline's customer service telephone number or rebook through your airline's website.

Flight delay information: <http://www.flightstats.com/go/Home/home.do>

Shelters

Shelter Name	County	Address	City	State	Zip	Population
Lassen Community College Gymnasium	LASSEN	478-200 Highway 239	Susanville	CA	96130	43
First Baptist Church of Weaverville	TRINITY	1261 Main Street	Weaverville	CA	96093	3
Outside-Springs of Hope Christian Fellowship	Plumas	59 Bell Lane	Quincy	CA	95971	0
Outside-Lassen Community College Gymnasium	Lassen	478-200 Highway 239	Susanville	CA	96130	20
Springs of Hope Christian Fellowship	Plumas	59 Bell Lane	Quincy	CA	95971	15

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Regional Park	Placer	3770 Richardson Dr.	Auburn	CA	95602	6
Bear River High School	Nevada	111340 Magnolia Rd	Grass Valley	CA	95949	7
Willow Creek	Trinity	20 Kimtu Rd	Willow Creek	CA	95573	3
Thompson Falls Community Center	Sanders	410 Golf Center Rd	Thompson Falls	MT	59873	0

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