

Small fire burning in Desolation Wilderness

Update 8:28pm:

Helicopter crews are using Lake Tahoe to scoop up water to put out a blaze in Desolation Wilderness.

While the fire was reported Wednesday morning near Azure Lake, crews were still making drops as late as 5:30pm July 20.

U.S. Forest Service officials say it is less than one-half acre. In addition to the helicopter drops, a three-person helitack crew is on the scene. The cause is under investigation.

Crews in Truckee kept a fire near Hirschdale to 2 acres on Wednesday. It started about 6pm.

“Resources have contained the fire to 2 acres, but with terrain and winds it had potential to grow to 9-10 acres,” Truckee Fire Protection District staff said. The fire is currently under investigation.

These fires come a day after after there were two 1-acre fires near Montreal Road in South Lake Tahoe. Crews were still mopping those up on Wednesday. A spot fire erupted overnight underneath Heavenly’s gondola between towers seven and eight.

“The are in patrol status. The are looking for hot spots,” Lisa Herron with the USFS told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Campfires are illegal in Desolation Wilderness.

“Illegal and unattended campfires cause over 90 percent of wildfires in the Lake Tahoe Basin and increased fire danger due to the ongoing drought and warm summer weather is a big concern at Lake Tahoe,” according to the Forest Service.

Fire restrictions in the basin took effect July 1 and in the Eldorado National Forest they begin July 21. This means wood and charcoal fires will be restricted to designated recreation sites and other fire related activities will be prohibited until the end of fire season. Gas or propane fires are allowed with a permit.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report