

Fire near Mammoth 20% contained, outbuilding burned

Updated 8:20pm:

As of Sunday night the Owens River Fire near Mammoth is estimated to be 6,000 acres and 20 percent contained, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

The fire that started Sept. 17 is burning north of the Owens River Road near Clark Canyon, east of Highway 395. It is burning in sagebrush and Jeffrey pine.

The fire grew Sunday afternoon along the northeast flank and interior islands of fuel also burned actively. Fire crews tied the fireline from the Owens River Fire to the recent Clark Fire, which will provide an effective control line for a portion of the northern flank.

The Big Springs Campground, Clark Canyon (a popular climbing area), and nearby ranches and developments have been evacuated.

Four uninhabited outbuildings and several pieces of heavy equipment were destroyed during the initial response Saturday.

Smoke will be highly visible from locations throughout the Highway 395 corridor including Bishop, Mammoth Lakes, June Lake, and Lee Vining.

The cause of the fire is under investigation, but officials said it appears to be human caused.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report