



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon  
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## Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

For Immediate Release – August 24, 2012  
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### Suppression of the Cactus Fire Continues

Firefighters are currently containing the Cactus Fire, started by lightning on the morning of August 22. The fire is approximately one-half acre in size.

The Cactus Fire is located in the cliffs above the Ash Mountain/ Potwisha area. It is at 3,500 feet in elevation. This fire is being contained to protect nearby developments. The fire is at low elevation and has moderate potential for spread.

The fire was in an inaccessible area in the cliff, so the parks ordered Sierra National Forest's Helicopter 520. This crew is trained in heli-rappel and was inserted into the fire area. They cut a landing zone near the fire so that the parks helicopter could shuttle firefighters to the fire area.

The parks' Helicopter 552 also worked throughout much of the past two days dropping water on the fire to help hold its spread until firefighters could construct fireline.

Members of Engine 72, the Fire Effects crew, and Crew 91 are assigned to the fire. The fire is expected to be fully contained today and crews will begin "mopping up" the fire's edge. This process extinguishes hot areas along the fire's edge as part of the effort to control the fire.

Several other small (less than 1/10 of an acre) fires were started from the lightning storm. The parks will continue to complete reconnaissance flights looking for additional fires in the upcoming days.

For now, the parks firefighting resources are being kept close to front country locations to be ready for fire starts in developed areas during periods of extreme danger. This strategy allowed for quick response to the Cactus Fire as well as assisting with the Forks Fire in Three Rivers.

Wilderness fires will be routinely monitored and have low potential for growth. Many may actually be put out by the rain that is coming with these storms.

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