

Welcome to today's newsletter for families and friends of Australian and New Zealand fire personnel deployed to the USA.

It's been a busy day for members of the second deployment of ANZ firefighters in the USA completing their first day of orientation training, included the use of personal fire shelters. See the 'USA Local News' section for news about their TV appearance!

So, what is the first deployment up to? After beginning orientation training on 14 August and then being deployed to the fires in north west USA, crews in the first deployment are starting well-deserved R&R. There are numerous plans for how this is being spent - see some plans in 'Stories from the Fireline'.

The following information aims to provide you with the latest situation in the US, including locations of ANZ personnel, maps, stories and helpful contacts.

Deployment Summary

There are currently 93 Australian and New Zealand firefighters deployed to the USA fires. See the table on the third page for the current location of these ANZ members.

The ANZ deployments involve cooperation between a total of 29 organisations across Australia and New Zealand. These include crews deployed to the USA, organisational support for those crews.

Total ANZ Firefighters in USA

	Victorian	WA	NSW	ACT	TAS	NZ	Total
1 st Deployment (In Field - will commence R&R)	15	7	11	2	4	11	50
2 nd Deployment (Deployment to field), (includes 1 from WA to join on 1/9/06)	8	6	13	2	3	10	43

Weather Forecast

Very warm and dry weather will be the norm over the West the next couple of days. A strong cold front is expected to move into the Pacific Northwest Monday and bring a chance of thunderstorms to eastern Oregon, Idaho and Montana Tuesday and Wednesday. It will be quite windy across much of the West over the next few days. Much cooler weather will follow the cold front with a chance of showers for Idaho and Montana on Wednesday and Thursday. Warmer and drier weather will return to the West on the weekend.

Hotter and drier conditions are forecast over the next few days at the Cascade Complex and Mt Hood, but no significant fire growth is predicted for these fires. The Mt Hood Fire is now largely contained.

Current fire situation

As at 28 August 2006 (USA evening) - 29 August (Melbourne time)

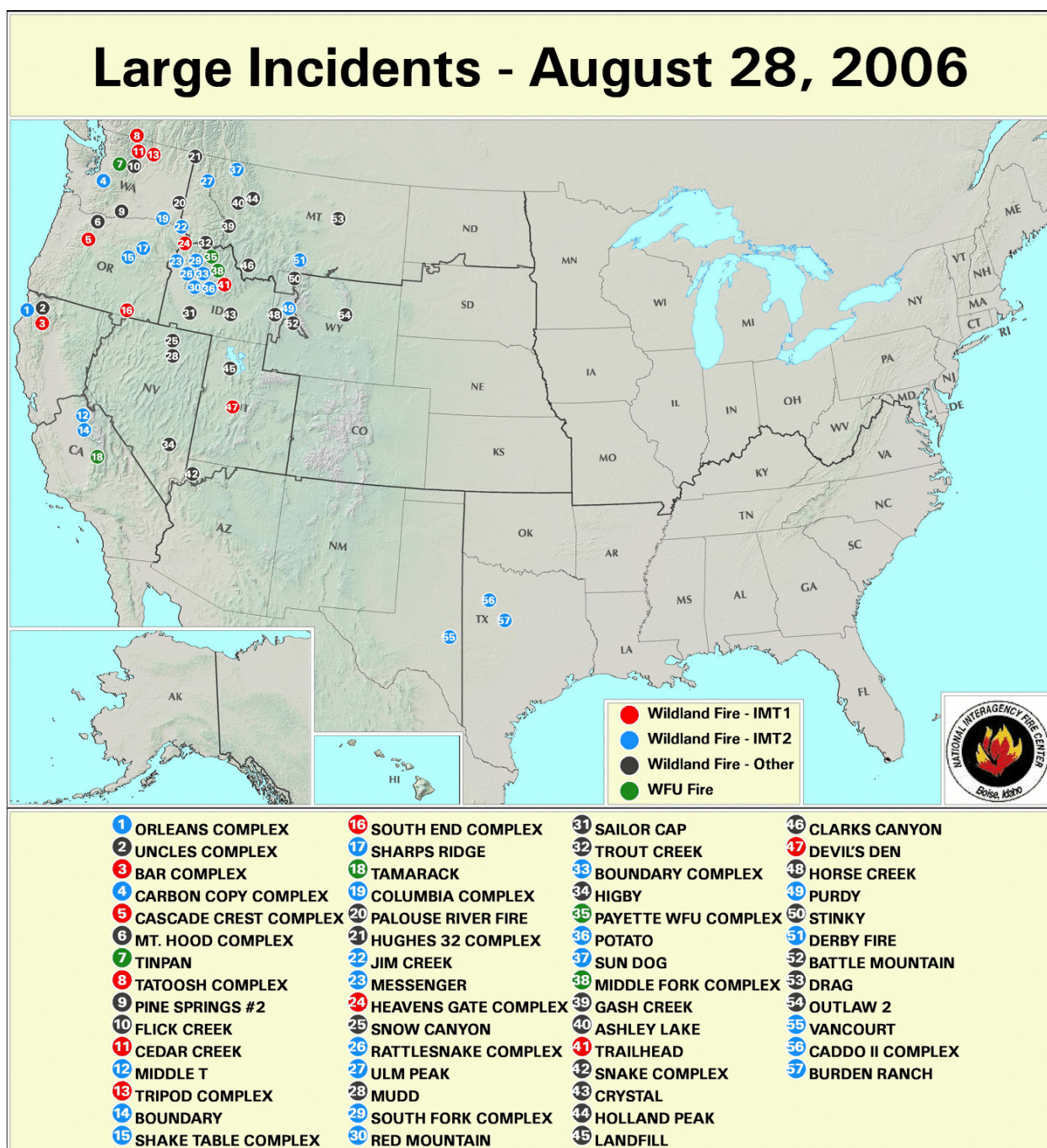
Wildland fire activity was lighter with 119 new fires reported. No new large fires were reported. Six large fires were contained; two each in California and Nevada, one each in Montana and Washington. Large fires are still occurring in Arizona (1), California (4), Idaho (15), Montana (6), Nevada (1), Oregon (7), Texas (3), Utah (2), Washington state (8) and Wyoming (5).

Very high to extreme fire indices were reported in Arizona, California, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.



US Date	US Time	No. active, large fires	New large fires	Large fires not under control (Acres)	Large fires not under control (Hectares)	Total burnt this season (Acres)	Total HA burnt this season (Hectares)
28-Aug-06	17:00	47	0	935,425	378,553	7,575,768	3,065,805

Map of US current fires (ANZ time, Tuesday 29 August)



Stories from the Fireline

- R&R options for crews to be rested after their work at the Cascade Complex and Mt Hood include fishing, sight seeing, floating down the Deschutt River, a good selection of eateries and shopping, including great sporting goods outlets.
- Bryan Cartelle (NZ) also mentions Monday 28 August ((USA time) that it's time for a hard earned R&R break for those ANZ crews on the Tripod Complex fires. He writes: "Nine of us are traveling down to Lake Chelan which is about 2 hours from Conconully; the other 7 are off to Seattle which is about 4 hrs drive. We have 2 full days off and we travel back to the fire on Thursday morning. We have been asked to come back to fill critical needs in the mid management area of this incident. We have all been looked after well in all aspects of this incident and I'm sure the R&R will be no different. It will be good to catch up with the others from the 8 Mile Zone as all have been heads up on respective incidents."
- Some statistics from Bryan Cartelle (NZ) on the Tripod Complex fires as of Sunday 27 August (USA time) - size of the fire 138,733 acres at 28% contained. The suppression cost to date is \$49.6 million, a total of 1,977 people are working on the fire, spread over 7 camps. They are using 380 radios, 77 [fire] engines, 6 helicopters, 28 dozers and a total of 265 miles of hose. We use 3 tons of ice each day and drink 8 pallets of water and Gatorade a day. "I don't even want to think about the [quantities of] meals but they are filling and calorie balanced."
- Australian and New Zealand Fire Fighters have earned recognition and respect from local line and incident management personnel in the USA.
- So Steve deVoogd (Vic) writes, "We have 13 Aussies contributing to the fire efforts here [Mt Hood Complex]. The Lake George Fire (on which all 13 were assigned initially) is now well contained. Through this period all of our team earned the respect of the Type 1 Incident Management Team they worked with. Their growing confidence has become evident in the assignments given to our team as the Puzzle Fire rapidly spread to 5,000 acres or so."

"Initially Daryl Burns (Vic) and Ed Hatherley (WA) helped with the important tasks of reconnaissance and strategy setting. As resources could be released from the Lake George Fire, a number of key positions were filled by our Aussies. This includes Peter Bidwell (WA) as a Division Supervisor located in Spike Camp [remote camp usually resupplied by air support], leading direct attack & containment of spotovers (one of which was right around their camp). Paul McCoughtry (Vic) & Peter Gibson (WA) have been leading crews on the fire edge to construct fire line and hose lays, and doing backburns. These blokes have been reporting to Daryl Burns (Vic) who was also allocated a Division to manage. Recently Ed Hatherley (WA) was also allocated a remote Division following his legendary 10 mile hike in his 'recon' role. This has also involved being in a spike camp for the last couple of nights.

"Alan Daw (WA) has earned much respect from managers and contractors during his role in management of contingency fire lines for the Puzzle Fire. These are made along existing roads and are used in the event of a large fire run. Alan has been leading quality work with little fuss.

"Peter Driscoll (Vic) has also assisted in the preparation of contingency lines, as well as management of water tenders for the Puzzle fire. Pete's organisational and good people skills are shining. Rod Simmonds (WA) and Matt Potter (Vic) have continued the important task of managing *patrol* and *blacking out* for the Lake George. This is critical to ensure all of the work done over the past 2 weeks is not lost.

"In the Aircraft Management scene Angela Lonergan (NSW) has been assisting at the Retardant Base set up in a remote area near the Puzzle fire. This is exclusively for helicopter use, but does not



include a remote spike camp. Phil Savage (Vic), Ian Dicker (NSW) and Scott Cashmere (ACT) have continued in the Helibase near Sisters in support of the whole Cascade Crest Complex (3 fires - Black Crater, Lake George and Puzzle). Phil is working closely with the management of an Erickson Skycrane. Scott and Ian have had varied assignments ranging from managing a chopper to helping in the communications role. Aircraft under their management includes Blackhawk, Chinook, Skycrane and other helicopters. Quite an eye opener.

"As with all other reports it is great to hear only positive news regarding the performance and professionalism of all of our team in this Complex. These Aussies have shown that they can earn great respect very quickly and are all loved as they bring some light relief to weary US firefighters through good humour and a further expansion of the cultural diversity over here. It seems likely at this stage that there will be a requirement for these firefighters to return to the Cascade Complex after R&R."

Where are ANZ crews?

The first deployment is commencing rest and recreation (R&R): this table shows where they were previously deployed. To show the location of ANZ personnel, fire numbers in the left hand column of the table below correspond to fire numbers on the USA map.

Deployment	Fire fighters/liaison	Other information
Tripod Complex / Concully Base Camp - Washington state (fire number13)	Field Liaison: Bryan Cartelle – NZ Julian Armstrong – NSW Terence Auton – VIC Ian Bounds – TAS Trevor Bullock – NZ Paul Devlin – NZ Michal Priyjma – NSW Robert Ratcliffe – TAS	
Tripod Complex / Highland Camp - Washington state - (fire number 13)	Craig Burley – NSW Edward Te Kahika – NZ	
Tripod Complex / 8 Mile Base Camp - Washington state - (fire number 13) Aircraft – Wenatchee (Methow Valley RD)	Field Liaison: Neil Cooper – ACT Chris Irvine – TAS Glenn Launt – NSW Russell Manning – VIC Nicholas McCabe – NZ John Duggan – TAS Evan Rarere – NZ Ashley Frank (leader) – NSW Wayne Leader – NSW Barry Scott – VIC Mark Williams – NSW Peter Windle – NSW	
National Inter Agency Fire Centre (NIFC) Boise liaison - Idaho	Liam Fogarty – VIC John Barnes – NZ	
Portland GACC - Oregon	Dennis Matthews – VIC	
Mt Hood Complex - Oregon - Aircraft (fire number 6)	Michael Morley – VIC Michael Sullivan – NZ	



Mt Hood Complex - Oregon (fire number 6)	Steve de Voogd – VIC Michael Grant – NZ Kevin Ihaka – NZ John Sutton – NZ	
Blister - Oregon (fire number 6)	Robert Round-Turner – WA Michael Wright - WA	
Baston Cook Complex (fire number 6)	Shane Geerin – NSW	
Sand Basin - Montana (Northern Rockies)	David Vaskess – VIC	David Vaskess is at the Sand Basin Fire near Phillipsburg in Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest
National Inter Agency Fire Centre (NIFC) Boise - Idaho - Red Mountain Fire (fire number 30)	David Nugent – VIC Andrew Morrow – VIC	Shadowing the Incident Management Team
Lake George Wildland Fire (Now Cascade Crest Complex) - Oregon (fire number 5)	Scott Cashmere – ACT Peter Driscoll - VIC Ian Dicker – NSW Peter Gibson – WA Alan Daw – WA Rodney Simmonds – WA Matt Potter – VIC Peter Bidwell – WA Paul McCoughtry – VIC Darryl Burns – VIC Ed Hatherley – WA Phillip Savage – VIC Angela Lonergan – NSW	Darryl Burns & Ed Hatherley on Night shift

2nd Deployment: (Aircraft & Operations) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 people to Tripod Complex • 18 people to Columbia • 2 people to South Complex • 2 people to Red Mountain • 6 people to Rattlesnake • 8 people to Trail Head (Liason & Information) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 people 	Rob Chalwell – VIC Greg Harry – VIC Brett Wagstaff – VIC Phil Hamer – VIC Stewart Kreltszheim – VIC Anthony Archer – VIC Allan Rankin – VIC Peter Cecil – VIC Robert Hagan – WA Vincent Hilder – WA Grant Olsen – WA Thomas Kenneally – WA Mark Read – WA Gavin Wornes – WA Peter Le Breton – NSW Barrie Curtis – NSW Julia Visser – NSW Garth Toner – NSW Christopher Banffy – NSW Glenn Burns – NSW Russell Perry – NSW Peter Kearney – NSW	John McNamara – NSW Murray Harrison – NSW Phillip Goldberg – NSW Brian Smith – NSW Trevor Reeves – NSW David Ingram – ACT Hilton Taylor – ACT Gerald Crawford – TAS Mark Cullen – TAS David Robson – TAS William Ellis – NZ Bradley Lett – NZ Rachael Thorp – NZ Mathew Flynn – NZ Paul Kate – NZ Trevor Tidey – NZ John Webster – NZ Tim Sheppard – NZ Brian Taylor – NZ Graeme McIntyre – NZ Roger Armstrong (WA) (deployment 1/9/06)
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Prepared by Situation Officer Virginia Harman, 29 August 2006 (MELBOURNE time)



USA Local News

The second deployment group has been featured in a news article on TV station KTVB in Idaho! You can view the footage of this news story at their website www.ktvb.com at the following link <http://www.ktvb.com/sharedcontent/VideoPlayer/showVideo.php?vidId=84112>

For up-to-the-minute local news on the US fire situation, including a special mention of the ANZ contingent, check out www.nuggetnews.com

Helpful contacts

- The facts and figures on this newsletter will be updated daily. Family and friends are also encouraged to check the US websites for latest fire updates- www.nifc.gov/fireinfo/nfn.html
- Useful glossary of USA firefighting terms at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/fire/glossary.html#fsto>
- For map of major fires in the US http://activefiresfiremaps.fs.fed.us/lq_fire2.php
- Time zones - eastern Australia is approximately 16 hours ahead of the USA. NZ is 18 hours ahead. View a map of world time zones at <http://www.worldtimezone.com>
Calculate time in USA relative to your location at www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html

Western Australia	Eastern Australia Vic, NSW, Tasmania	New Zealand	USA western-most states including Oregon & Washington State	USA Mountain daylight time including Montana & Idaho
8am Tuesday	10am Tuesday	12pm Tuesday	5pm Monday	6pm Monday

We will update this newsletter daily with new information.

In the meantime, if you have any concerns or questions please contact:

US Coordination Group (Melbourne)

Phone: 1300 13 4444 (local call cost, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Email: us.coordination@dse.vic.gov.au

