

NASA image: Rim Fire Update Aug. 26, 2013

August 26 2013



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The latest on the Rim Fire from inciweb.org: "The Rim incident is expected to continue to exhibit very large fire growth due to extremely dry fuels and inaccessible terrain. Rapid fire growth and extreme fire behavior and hampering suppression efforts. Aerial resources are being effective with MAFFs and VLAT DC-10 air tankers prepping locations in advance of the fires spread toward the Highway 108 corridor and along the eastern perimeter of the fire. The forecasted high winds and high potential for long range spotting however remains a significant concern for fire to advance beyond the retardant lines and allow for fire spread into the communities of Tuolumne City, Twain Harte and Long Barn to the west of the fire and east into the Hetch Hetchy watershed."

The fire itself is in control of its own weather. NBC4 in Southern California reports: "California fire officials say the fire is so large and is burning with such a force, it has created its own [weather pattern](#), making it difficult to predict which direction it will move. 'As the smoke column builds up it breaks down and collapses inside of itself, sending downdrafts and gusts that can go in any direction,' CalFire spokesman Daniel Berlant told the Associated Press. "There's a lot of potential for

this one to continue to grow."

Dense smoke from the fire has been a serious health threat as well. Health officials in Reno, Nevada report the air quality index in their city is in the "unhealthy" range due to the smoke fallout from the Rim Fire. The smoke has also created visibility problems for air ambulance services in the Reno area as well. The smoke has prevented them from responding to some emergency calls across the region in the last couple of days.

Fire crews have no estimate as to when the [fire](#) will be completely contained.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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