

NASA image: Rim Fire in California

August 26 2013



The Rim Fire began in California on Aug. 17, 2013. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. This fire is treacherous and has tripled in size in the last few days to now over 106,000 acres. The fire had been 5 percent contained, but the fire jumped fire lines and is currently only 2 percent contained. Credit: NASA image courtesy Jeff Schmaltz LANCE/EOSDIS MODIS Rapid Response Team, GSFC.

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According to the San Jose Mercury News, "There appeared to be no stopping the massive Rim Fire as it exploded further into Yosemite National Park heading into the weekend. The fire nearly doubled in size overnight into Friday and stood at about 106,000 acres, or 165 square miles—nearly the entire size of San Jose. Cal Fire spokesman Daniel Berlant said although more than 2,000 firefighters were working on the Rim Fire it's been a struggle to safely access the rugged canyon terrain, while the extremely dry conditions have helped the fire spread quickly. 'And now the fire has grown to a size and intensity where it's creating its own wind and weather,' Berlant said. It was only 2 percent contained."

The Rim Fire blaze combined with the mostly-contained, two-week-old 20,000-acre American Fire smoldering in a forest west of Lake Tahoe.

Yosemite National Park was the least impacted, as the vast majority of the park remained open and the wind blew the smoke away from the [tourist destinations](#) at the center of the park.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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