



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yosemite National Park
Fire Education Office

P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389
209/372-0480 phone or
209/372-0491 phone

Yosemite West: PW-17, Prescribed Fire Information Update #1

October 10, 2007

The Yosemite West prescribed fire began yesterday October 9, at 9:30 AM. Fire managers determined the conditions were good to continue the burn after a small test fire was started near the "Sand Shed", Hwy 41 and the entrance into the Yosemite West community. Approximately 60 acres have been burned as of 8 AM today.

This fire area does not have a recent fire history, resulting in large accumulations of dead and down large tree fuels. An upper level weather trough accompanied with tree top and ridge level breezes did occur as predicted yesterday that continued into the night operational period. Due to the potential for increased flame lengths and fire behavior combined with smoky conditions, fire managers conducted this burn slowly yesterday.

Fire Managers will continue the burn through-out the week. As this weather system clears out today, it is accompanied by a high-pressure warming trend. Friday will bring another potential for cooler temperatures and perhaps rain/snow.

Smoky conditions across the Wawona Rd (Hwy 41) will continue to exist through the burn project. All drivers are to pay special attention to instructions provided by Yosemite's Traffic Control Officers, and obey posted speed signs. The southbound lane is closed in the area of the burn for firefighter safety. All vehicles are being escorted by a Pilot Vehicle. Short delays (10 minutes) are to be expected. A thank-you needs to be given to Yosemite Traffic Control Officers for doing fine work in keeping our visitors and firefighters safe along the road.

Smoke was visible throughout the area and will continue through the burn; however, it was lifting and mixing into the atmosphere well. Residents and visitors are advised to take precautions to minimize smoke impacts to health. People with respiratory problems should use caution when exerting themselves in smoky areas.

For additional information or concerns, please call the Fire Information Line at (209) 372-0480 or our Prescribed Fire Office at (209) 375-9574.

Mariposa County Air Quality Board: Phone: (209) 966-2220 Fax: (209) 966-8248

Additional Information: The park website, www.nps.gov/yose/fire has information about fire activity and smoke effects in Yosemite.