NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service
Bridger-Teton National Forest
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   Contact: Jay Anderson
DATE: July 22, 2001   Phone: 739-5542

Mosquito Creek Fire Update

A fire in the Mosquito Creek drainage is getting a lot of attention from Bridger-Teton National Forest, Grand Teton National Park and Jackson/Teton County firefighters. The blaze that started at one half of one acre earlier today has spread to an estimated 100 acres as of 6:00 PM. Fuel conditions; terrain and weather conditions are making suppression activities difficult, prompting the need for additional resources. Presently, a 24 person crew headed by Jackson/Teton County Fires' Rusty Palmer is going door-to-door warning residents in the following areas of the potential to evacuate; Aspen Cove, Crescent H, Indian Paintbrush, McNeely Mountain, Bircher Road, Wooded Hills and Deep Powder. While a formal evacuation notice has not been issued, citizens living in these areas are encouraged to find alternative lodging for the evening to facilitate any potential evacuation.

Presently 24 firefighters, including 8 smoke jumpers, 2 engine crews and 3 helicopters are battling this fire with aerial tanker support dropping fire retardant in key locations. Jackson/Teton County firefighters have been mobilized in the event homes and other structures in the area need protection. A Type I Incident Management Team has been ordered to take over this fire and is scheduled to arrive at 10:00 AM tomorrow, July 23rd. Along with this team, an additional 9, 20-person hand crews have been ordered along with 2 more Sky Plane Helicopters, which should begin arriving through the night.

For additional information, please contact the Bridger-Teton National Forest at (307) 739-5500 or 739-5420. The Interagency Fire Information Center in Jackson, WY will re-open tomorrow, July 24th, to address public interest in these and other fires. Hours of operation and new telephone numbers will be provided upon activation of this community fire information resource.

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