

Fast moving fire forces evacuation of Gasquet area

September 8, 2020



All of Gasquet and the surrounding area being evacuated due to a rapidly moving fire, according to Del Norte County Emergency Services Manager Kymmie Scott.

She said residents are being advised to evacuate south and meet at a temporary evacuation point at the Del Norte County Fairgrounds.

However, because of COVID-19, emergency officials are not sheltering anyone at the fairgrounds, Scott said.

"If people end up needing shelter — if we lose Gasquet — we will work with the Red Cross to put people up in hotel rooms," Scott said. "I want people to go to the fairgrounds and stay in their cars unless they have a friend's house they can go to."

According to Public Information Officer Bill Stevens, the advisory is the result of the Slater fire in Siskiyou County, which forced the evacuation of the Happy Camp area yesterday.

The Slater Fire started south of the Slater Butte Fire Lookout. By 8:30 a.m., Sept. 8, the estimated size of the wildfire was 150 acres. By 4 p.m. the wildfire had increased to over 22,000 acres in size.

"We're joining that party as that fire moves rapidly west," Stevens said.

The Redwood Highway, or U.S. Highway 199, is now closed from mile post 34 to 41. According to the Oregon Department of Transportation, due to wildfire north of the California border, Redwood Highway is closed just south of Cave Junction near the Illinois Valley Airport to the California border.

Hiouchi residents don't need to evacuate yet, but are on alert, Stevens said. They should have supplies ready in a Go Bag. Those with livestock should start moving them now and residents should have a plan on where to move pets if need be.

Stevens added after talking with Del Norte County Health Officer Warren Rehwaldt, all county residents should stock up on water in the event the wildfires disrupt power to the water supply.

More information to follow.