

State Parks uses unique firefighting techniques to fight Howland Hill Fire

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A fire located off of Howland Hill Road, in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, part of Redwood National and State Parks, remains under 1 acre and is burning in the canopy of 5 redwood trees, according to a Tuesday Facebook post from Redwood National and State Parks.

Howland Hill Road remains closed from the west entrance, near Crescent City, to Boy Scout Tree trail

"Howland Hill road is open from the east entrance, near Hiouchi, to Boy Scout Tree trail. For your public safety, and to respect the efforts of fire crews, please stay out of the closed section of Howland Hill Road."

"Using canopy firefighting techniques developed by California State Parks in Humboldt Redwoods State Park, as well as the incredible climbing abilities of Skilled Laborer Yony Rivas, Fire Management staff are able to rig these burning trees with sprinkler systems."

"Crews, climbing to over 100 feet, spray the hard-to-reach flames and set up sprinkler systems to be left in the trees until the fire is confirmed to be extinguished."

"Conventional firefighting methods would have required these redwoods to be cut down, but with the ability to fight fire in the canopy, California State Parks can allow these trees to grow for centuries more."

"As much as thinking about fire in old growth redwood tress can be hard to imagine, redwood trees are actually quite resilient to fire, and have built in adaptations that have helped them to survive fires for thousands of years."