



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon  
National Parks

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## Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Fire Update

For Immediate Release – October 6, 2009  
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### ***Horse Fire Shows Moderate Growth in Sequoia National Park***

The *Horse Fire* is currently 580 acres. This fire was started by lightning on July 19<sup>th</sup> and is located in the south end of Sequoia National Park in the vicinity of Hockett Meadow near the headwaters of Horse Creek. It is at 9,100 feet in elevation.

Fire behavior includes smoldering, creeping ground fire with some isolated torching. Increased growth was due to hot, dry conditions last week. Fire behavior has diminished with the cold temperatures but additional growth expected with a warming trend forecasted this week.

Firefighters have staged equipment to protect the Hockett Ranger Station as fire grows closer to the structure. The fire has spread across the Tar Gap Trail. Fire monitors are currently assigned to the fire to assess the fire, map its growth, and are providing trail escorts between Horse Creek and Hockett Ranger Station as necessary.

Hikers may notice some smoke in the area. Residents in the East Fork drainage of the Kaweah River may notice limited smoke.

Fire is a natural process in the Sierra Nevada. Regular lightning fires limit the size and severity of subsequent fires and help to create a mosaic of diverse habitats for plants and animals.

<http://www.nps.gov/seki/naturescience/current-fires.htm>