

Tahoe-Truckee news briefs: Cause of Emerald Fire remains under investigation

Staff report

October 18, 2016

Cleanup from the Emerald Fire that scorched 176 acres in South Lake Tahoe is underway in the Emerald Bay and Cascade Lake area.

Calfire reported that the fire was 100 percent contained on Monday. On the same day, Highway 89 reopened at noon.

No one was hurt and no structures were damaged in the fire, the cause of which remains under investigation.

The highway had been closed between Camp Richardson and Meeks Bay since Friday morning due to the wildlife, which was reported at 1:33 a.m.

Strong winds coming in ahead of last weekend's rainstorm fanned the fire in different directions, resulting in dangerous rates of spread.

On Sunday and Monday, mandatory evacuation orders were lifted in several South Shore neighborhoods. In all, roughly 500 homes were threatened by the fire.

"Now we are focusing efforts on rehabilitation," Brice Bennett, Public Information Officer for Calorie's Amador El Dorado Unit, told the Tahoe Daily Tribune. "Crews are out cutting water bars to aid in drainage to prevent erosion in certain spots as well as chipping material."

TCPUD AWARDED FOR TRANSPARENCY

The Tahoe City Public Utility District recently was awarded the "District Transparency Certificate of Excellence" by the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) in recognition of "outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance," according to a news release.

In order to receive this award, a special district must demonstrate completion of eight essential governance transparency requirements, including conducting ethics training for all board members, among other tasks.

TCPUD has also fulfilled 15 website requirements, including, but not limited to, posting agendas, past minutes and the current district budget.

"We truly appreciate this acknowledgment and will continue to build on these efforts in our ongoing mission to better serve and inform our community," said General Manager Cindy Gustafson.

Visit tcpud.org to learn more.

\$145K IN GRANTS AWARDED FOR WEBBER LAKE/LACEY MEADOWS PROJECTS

The Truckee Donner Land Trust recently announced the awarding of two grants in support of developing a Timber Management Plan, and implementing forest fire fuels management for the trust's Webber Lake/Little Truckee River Headwaters property.

The Community Foundation of Western Nevada's Truckee River Fund awarded \$75,000 and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy awarded \$70,000, together providing \$145,000 for the development and implementation of the plan, according to a news release from the land trust.

The Webber Lake and Lacey Meadows complex is located within the headwaters of the Little Truckee River, north of Truckee in Sierra County.

"There is an urgent need to minimize the threat and consequences of catastrophic wildfire to the Webber complex and possible spread of fire and beetle damage to adjacent healthier watershed systems," John Svahn of the Land Trust said in a statement.

With the funding from these two grants, the land trust "plans to contract with a Registered Professional Forester to assess the property and create a long-term Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan approved by CAL FIRE for approximately 1,900 acres within the complex," according to a news release.

Visit tdlandtrust.org to learn more.