

**Announcement**

**Nate Rasner Sierra Front Type 3 Team**

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**Public Information Officer**

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**August 19, 2015 Announcement #3, 12:30 p.m.**

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| **Date Started:** 8/14/2015 **Cause:** Human | **Total Personnel**: **484****Injuries/Illnesses to Date:0** |
| **Size:** 3,715 acres | **Structures Threatened: 235** |
| **Percent Contained: 35%****Resources: 4** helicopters, **0** seats **2** Air tankers Engines **34,**Crews **10,**Water Tenders **6,**  Dozers **4** | **Structures Lost: 0****Estimated Containment:8/23/2015** |

**If you Fly, We Can’t – Report of Drones near Walker Fire**

**Lee Vining, CA:** Drones are becoming an increasingly popular recreational activity on forest land and throughout the country. However, drones flying near wildland fires pose a serious and immediate threat to the safety of aircraft crews involved in fire response.

Individuals and organizations that fly unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), more commonly referred to as drones, for hobby or recreational purposes may not operate them in areas of National Forest System lands that have Temporary Flight Restrictions in place, such as wildfires, without prior approval from the U.S. Forest Service.

The Federal Aviation Administration has regulatory authority over all airspace, including recreational use of airspace by model aircraft .Individuals and organizations that fly drones on National Forest System lands must follow  FAA guidance – FAA guidance stipulates that UAS not interfere with manned aircraft, be flown within sight of the operator and be operated only for hobby or recreational purposes.  The FAA also requires model aircraft operators flying UAS within five miles of an airport to notify the airport operator and air traffic control tower.  For more information, watch the “Know Before You Fly” video [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XF5Q9JvBhxM&feature=youtu.be(link is external)**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XF5Q9JvBhxM&feature=youtu.be(link%20is%20external)) and visit the Know Before You Fly Website at [**http://www.knowbeforeyoufly.org/(link is external)**](http://www.knowbeforeyoufly.org/)

Please, for the safety of our firefighters and for an effective fire response, please keep drones away from the Walker Fire and near heliports.

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