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
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LOLO PEAK FIRE

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Information Update

MONDAY AUGUST 7

Weather and fire behavior: Warmer and drier today and, after the smoke lifts, parts of the Lolo Peak Fire could become a bit more active. That activity is expected on the fire's northern edge, mainly in Cedar Creek and the South Fork of Lolo Creek. Some single tree, and group torching may occur.

Yesterday: Helicopters dropped retardant along the fire's western edge to prevent fire spread into the next drainage. Crews tested pumps, hoses and sprinklers to ensure they will be ready to protect homes and hold the fire line, if needed.

Today: “We’re going to start managing how this fire comes down the hill” Incident Commander Noel Livingston told fire fighters at this morning’s 6 a.m. briefing. There are three parts to the strategy. “We will allow the fire to grow naturally in some areas, and we’ll continue to check it, using helicopters and retardant, in areas of concern,” Livingston said. The third part will be a very intentional process to put a limited amount fire in unburned areas, in order to lessen the chances for high intensity fire behavior later. Manmade fire will be used when conditions are favorable, to produce low-intensity burns. These burns lessen overall intensity by robbing the approaching fire of fuel.

Fire fighters also observed a moment of silence at today’s briefing to remember Brent Witham, a Vista Grande Hotshot who was killed on this fire five days ago. Witham’s body is being returned to his home in California today.

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