



NEWS Release

USDA Forest Service Tahoe National Forest

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QLG Project Moderates Fire Behavior on Calpine Fire

The 50-acre Calpine fire began on Saturday, June 23, when high winds and low humidities apparently rekindled a burn pile ignited in December, announced District Ranger Sam Wilbanks. “We conducted patrols of the burned piles, and even used a state of the art infrared detection helicopter this spring to look for residual heat in the piles. We were especially vigilant but this one pile is right across the road from the start of the fire.” stated Wilbanks.

“The good news, however, is that due to the amount of fuel reduction in the area, the fire was contained at 50 acres, even considering the high winds on Saturday. The fuel reduction was part of a QLG defensible fuel profile zone around Calpine. Due to the thinning, the fire retardant was more effective in slowing the spread of the fire and hand crews were able to contain the fire – in part - due to the fuel reduction work. In the treated areas, the Calpine Fire actually behaved more like an underburn rather than a raging wildfire,” continued Wilbanks. “Most of the trees will survive, and there is minimal damage to soil and watershed resources,” he added.

With the expectation, that this is going to be a bad fire season, residents are encouraged complete the defensible space around their property. State law requires a 100 foot defensible space zone around each home.

