



When is?

A FIRE CONTAINED, CONTROLLED, AND OUT

A fire is always contained before it is controlled.

FIRE FACTS

A fire is *contained* when the fire is encircled by constructed fire lines or other fuel breaks such as roads, streams, etc., and there is a reasonable expectation that the fire will no longer spread beyond these lines. When a fire is contained, there may still be active flames that threaten to cross the lines. The photo below illustrates an existing road and a wide tractor line used to contain the fire. The photo also shows an area where crews have used a bulldozer to build fire lines around two spot fires that ignited outside the perimeter of the main fire. When a fire is burning it is common for reports to come out stating that a fire is X% contained. For example, a fire that is 20% contained means that some combination of fire lines and other fuel breaks surround 20% of the perimeter of the fire.



Photo Courtesy of: InciWeb

A fire is *controlled* when it is fully contained, and crews have extinguished flames and smoking/smoldering fuels, and removed unburnt fuels from about 300 feet inside the fire line perimeter. This

effort may take several days once a fire is fully contained. Any hotspots that are immediate threats to these lines have cooled down enough so there is little chance that flames will cross the fire boundary. A fire is considered to be *out* when no hotspots and smoke is detected within the lines for at least 48 hours. However, large wildland fires are often watched and patrolled until rain or snow eliminates all smoke.



Photo Courtesy of: InciWeb

For more information:

National Wildfire Coordinating Group Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology

<http://www.nwcg.gov/glossary-of-wildland-fire-terminology>

National Park Service | USDA Forest Service Fire Terminology

<http://www.fs.fed.us/nwacfire/home/terminology.html>

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