

Yosemite fire burns 2,600 acres, but rain, cooler weather help firefighters (video)

By Andrea Castillo

Press briefing discussing the current situation with the Meadow fire, still burning in Yosemite National Park. (video: John Walker) THEFRESNOBEE — John Walker

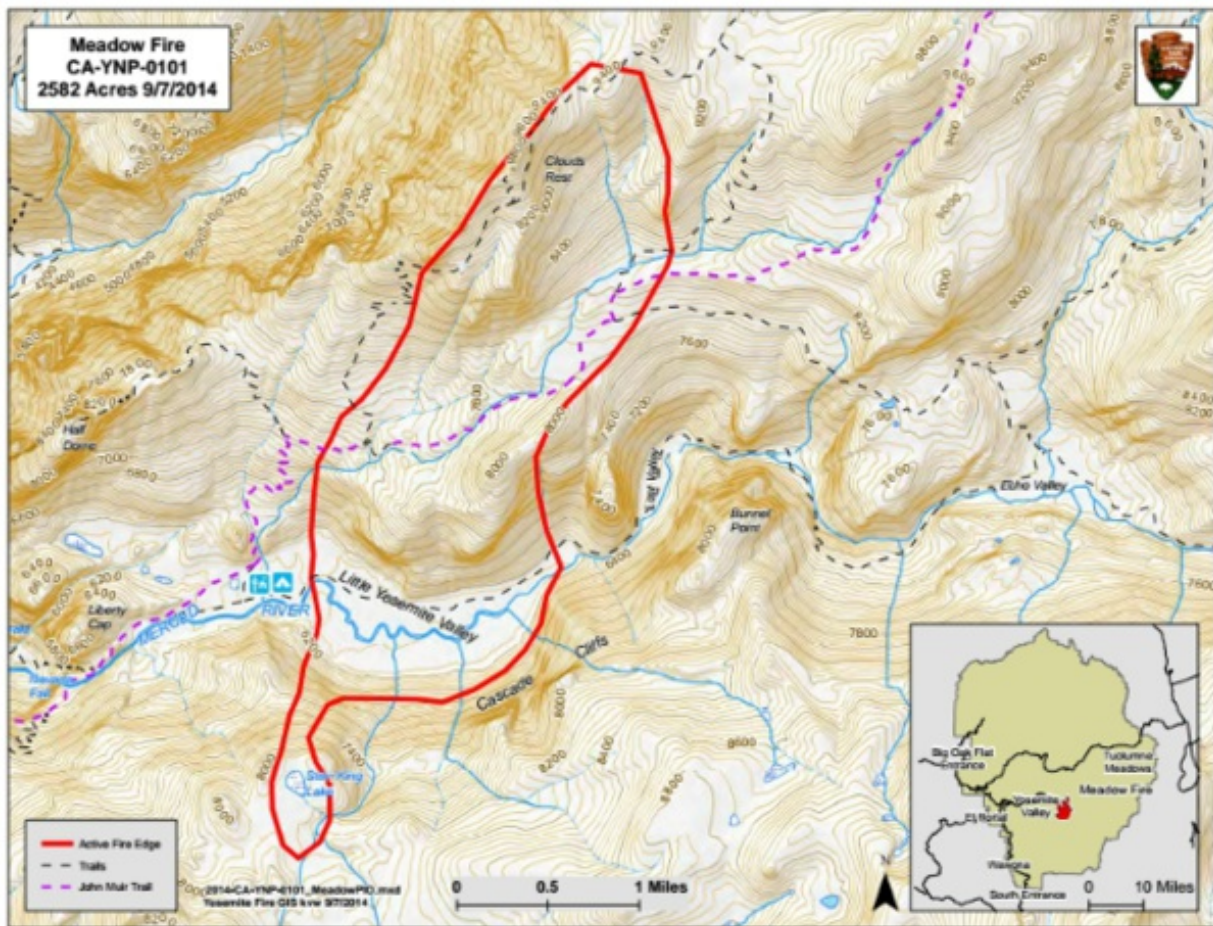
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK — Rick and Barb Luick had been in Yosemite National Park for just several hours when they noticed something about the distant smoke visible from Glacier Point.

"You ever seen tires burn?" Rick Luick said. "Well it was kind of like that: Black."

The couple, both 62, from Peoria, Illinois were on their first trip to Yosemite National Park and had stopped at the lookout during a bus tour. They came back in the late afternoon to a different scene of billowing gray smoke and red flames.

Approximately 2,600 acres have burned in Little Yosemite Valley on either side of the Merced River. It is thought to be from a spot fire from a lightning-caused burn, dubbed the Meadow fire, which started in mid-July. Around 185 hikers - 100 from Little Yosemite Valley and 85 from the Half Dome summit -- were safely evacuated Sunday night and relocated to other lodging areas.

Park officials don't yet know how much of the fire is contained or how long that will take. But they say cooler temperatures and some Monday rain likely slowed its spread and kept the Yosemite Valley from experiencing heavy smoke.



Katharine Harrison, 40, of Grass Valley, said she and the other campers were asked to leave Bridalveil Creek Campground because of the fire containment effort. She was relocated to Wawona Campground for the final week of her two-week trip.

Harrison, who has been to Yosemite dozens of times since she was young, said she never knows what to expect at the park.

"(The fire) definitely changed my experience, but that's the price we pay for this beautiful nature," she said.

This story will be updated.

The reporter can be reached at (559) 441-6279, acastillo@fresnobee.com or [@andreamcastillo](https://twitter.com/andreamcastillo) on Twitter.

Copyright

© 2014 www.fresnobee.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.fresnobee.com>