



For Immediate Release
September 10, 2015, evening

Butte Fire in Amador and Calaveras Counties Update

Gold Country, CA- As of sunset, Thursday, September 10th, the Butte Fire has consumed 14,700 acres and is 10% contained. Winds through Mokelumne Canyon, where the Butte Fire is largely burning have frustrated firefighters today. More equipment is due into the area tomorrow. All roads in and out of Amador and Calaveras Counties are open. Although there are some power outages, these are limited to some residents and businesses along Highway 88 in Amador County and Highway 26 in Calaveras County. Evacuations have occurred in both Amador and Calaveras Counties, including Mokelumne Hill, Volcano, and parts of Pine Grove, south of Highway 88.

Temperatures are expected to be above 100 degrees on Friday. Smoke from the fire is collecting in parts of both counties – especially in the east. Air quality is affected in those places and may be unhealthy for those with chronic health conditions. This is expected to be worse in the mornings as the fire continues.

Events and destinations in the western sections of Amador and Calaveras Counties are least affected by the Butte Fire. Preston Castle's Wine Tasting & Tour event on Saturday, September 12th, will go on as scheduled, as will the Angels Camp Farmer's Market's 10th anniversary celebration in Utica Park on Friday, September 11th. Wine tasting regions in both counties continue to harvest and have seen little of the smoke from the fire.

Other favorite family destinations including Calaveras Big Trees State Park, Moaning Cavern, Ironstone Vineyards, and most historic downtowns in Calaveras County are far from the fire danger, and may be smoky but are open for business as usual. In Amador County, Preston Castle, historic downtowns, Castle Oaks Golf Course, and Lake Camanche are all looking forward to visitors as usual this weekend.

If you have travel plans this weekend to Amador or Calaveras Counties and would like more information, please contact the appropriate Visitor Center: Amador Council of Tourism, 209-267-9249, or Calaveras Visitors Bureau, 209-736-0049 to get updated information on accessibility and air quality. Full information on all events taking place this weekend in Amador County are available here: www.touramador.com/calendar/month and for Calaveras County here: www.gocalaveras.com/calendar-of-events.

-30-



Amador Council of Tourism, Contact: **Maureen Funk**
www.TourAmador.com | 209-267-9249 | info@TourAmador.com



Calaveras Visitors Bureau, Contact: **Lisa Boulton**
www.GoCalaveras.com | 209-736-0049 | info@GoCalaveras.com