

# Thompson-Divide Complex

Northern Rockies Type II Incident Management Team

Irv Leach Incident Commander

Daily Fact Sheet Aug. 17, 8:00 a.m.



Link to <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4468/>

Fire Information: (406) 314-1669 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

**Approximate Size:** 13,680 acres

**Containment:** 0%      **Latitude** 48.551, **Longitude** -113.613

**Resources - Total Personnel:** 115      **Injuries:** None      **Structures Lost:** None

**Hand Crews:** 1 Wildland Fire Management Module      **Air Support:** Helicopters (1 Type-1 & 1 Type-3)  
1 Helitack Crew

**Fire Update:** The IMT has assumed management of two new fire starts (Sheep and Granite Fires) on the Flathead National Forest adjacent to Glacier National Park. These three fires are now referred to as the Thompson-Divide Complex. The new fires are located in the Great Bear Wilderness south of Highway 2. They will be assessed today to determine needed suppression actions. The Sheep Fire is estimated at 100 acres and the Granite Fire at 30-40 acres.

The Thompson Fire, reported Aug. 9, is located in a remote south-central backcountry area of Glacier National Park about 15 miles east of the West Glacier entrance in the Thompson and Nyack drainages west of the Continental Divide.

Crews remain spiked and working in the Nyack Creek drainage today. They will continue constructing a wet line between avalanche chutes on the west side of the fire's perimeter to contain the fire. This includes the use of helicopter water drops and pumps and hose lays on the ground. Fire personnel in the Two Medicine and Cut Bank drainages will continue monitoring efforts for any fire that might cross to the east-side of the Continental Divide. The fire remains west of the Divide and poses no threat to communities around East Glacier and St. Mary.

Weather will remain unsettled through Monday night with the passage of a weak disturbance. This provides an opportunity for afternoon thunderstorms and a slight chance of rain, especially along the Divide. A high pressure ridge will begin building on Tuesday through Thursday bringing warmer and drier conditions. This will bring increased fire spread on the ground with isolated tree torching. As fuels in the burn area dry, there will likely be an increase in smoke production that may be seen from local communities on both sides of the Divide.

Most of Glacier National Park is unaffected by this wildfire and is available for recreational use. Limited backcountry closures are in place. See below for details. For more specific visitor information, please see official websites <http://www.nps.gov/glac/index.htm>, <https://twitter.com/glaciernps>, and <https://www.flickr.com/photos/glaciernps/>. Additionally you can view park webcams at <http://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/photosmultimedia/webcams.htm>.

Flathead County is under Stage I Fire Restrictions. Campfires are not allowed in the backcountry of Glacier National Park. Campfires are still allowed in developed campgrounds that have park-provided concrete or metal fire rings. Because of wildfires in other areas, haze and smoke may be seen in the Park. Visit <http://svc.mt.gov/deq/todaysair/> for current air quality information.

**Closures:** The Thompson Fire has prompted closure of some trails and back country campsites on the west side of the Continental Divide in the vicinities of the Nyack and Thompson drainages. Similar closures were also included on the east-side of the Continental Divide in the vicinities of the Cut Bank and Two Medicine drainages. There may be additional trail closures in the area if fire activity increases. For updated information on trail status and details of this Closure Order, visit <http://home.nps.gov/applications/glac/infobull/closures.cfm>.

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**Thompson Fire Trail Closures:**

Coal Creek Trail  
 Nyack Creek Trail  
 Cutbank Pass Trail  
 Park Creek to Coal Creek cutoff trail  
 Dry Fork Trail, from Pitamakan Pass to Two Medicine Campground trailhead and Two Medicine Entrance trailhead  
 Morning Star Trail, from Cutbank Auto Campground to Pitamakan Pass  
 Atlantic Creek Trail from Cutbank Auto Campground to Triple Divide  
 Medicine Grizzly Lake Trail  
 Dawson Pass Trail/North Shore of Two Medicine Lake  
 Upper Two Medicine Lake Trail

**Thompson Fire Campground Closures:**

Cutbank Frontcountry Campground  
 Lower Nyack Backcountry Campground  
 Upper Nyack Backcountry Campground  
 Beaver Woman Lake Backcountry Campground  
 Nyack/Coal Creek Camping Zone  
 Coal Creek Backcountry Campground  
 Atlantic Creek Backcountry Campground  
 Morning Star Backcountry Campground  
 Oldman Lake Backcountry Campground  
 No Name Backcountry Campground  
 Upper Two Medicine Lake Backcountry Campground

**More Information:** Visit Inciweb at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4468/>.

**Other Fires in Glacier National Park:**

1. The Waterton Lake Fire was detected on the west side of Waterton Lake on the U.S. side of Glacier National Park on August 14th. A Canadian Type-2 short team and a helicopter have responded. It is about 25 acres. Several trails and back country campgrounds have been closed. The Waterton Shoreline Boat is still running from Waterton to Goat Haunt with no back country access.

**Glacier National Park Trail/Campground Closures**

Boulder Pass Trail from Janet Lake Campground to Goat Haunt  
 Boundary Trail from Goat Haunt to the International boundary  
 Waterton Valley Trail from Pass Creek Junction to Goat Haunt  
 Boulder Pass Trail Brown Pass to Goat Haunt  
 Goat Haunt Shelter  
 Waterton River Back Country Campground  
 Kootenai Back Country Campground

**Waterton Lakes National Park Trail Closures**

Lakeshore trail from the townsite to Boundary Bay  
 Bertha Lake Trail (to open Monday, August 17)  
 Alderson Lake Trail (from the townsite trailhead)  
 Carthew-Alderson Trail (from Summit Lake via Carthew Lakes to Alderson Lake) (to open Monday, August 17)  
 Boundary Creek Trail  
 Summit Lake Trail (to open Monday, August 17)  
 Pass Creek Day Use Area

2. The Reynolds Creek Fire on the east side of the park is experiencing some smoldering and hot spots within the fire perimeter. For information on the Reynolds Creek fire, please visit <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4405/#>.

**Trail/Campground Closures**

St Mary Lake Trail from Red Eagle Trail to Virginia Falls and St Mary Falls trailhead  
 Siyeh Pass Trail from Siyeh Pass to Sun Rift Gorge  
 Otokomi Trail  
 Rising Sun Front Country Campground  
 Otokomi Back Country Campground  
 Reynolds Back Country Campground

Visit <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/> for information on other Glacier National Park fires.

**The Thompson Fire has not impacted any park roads. The Going-to-the-Sun Road is open.**

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