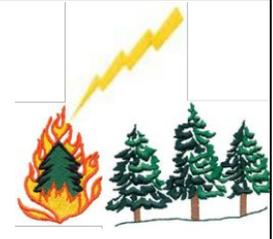


Thompson-Divide Complex

Northern Rockies Type II Incident Management Team
Irv Leach Incident Commander

Daily Fact Sheet Aug. 18, 7:00 p.m.



A public meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 18 at 7:00 p.m. It will be at the Izaak Walton Hotel outside shelter in Essex.



Resources - Total Personnel: 129 **Injuries:** None **Structures Lost:** None

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

This IMT is managing the Thompson Fire in Glacier National Park and the 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. Wednesday thru Thursday, weather will be warming and drying with breezier conditions. These conditions could increase fire activity 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.

Flathead County is currently under Stage I Fire Restrictions. Stage II Fire Restrictions are set to go into effect across northwest Montana on Thursday; August 20th. Haze and smoke conditions will likely be seen because of wildfires in other areas west of our location,. Visit <http://svc.mt.gov/deq/todaysair/> for current air quality information.

Thompson Fire Glacier National Park

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

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

Approximate Size: 13,820 acres

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

Fire Update:

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 camped out and working in the Nyack Creek drainage today. Crews have been successfully conducting burnout operations to reduce fuels in avalanche chutes on the west side of the fire's perimeter to contain the fire. They plan to continue doing some cleanup of the burnout operation. Fire personnel will continue monitoring the Two Medicine and Cut Bank drainages 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.

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>.

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.

Closures: Some trails and back country campsites are closed because of the fire. There may be additional trail closures in the area if fire activity increases. For updated information on trail status and details, visit <http://home.nps.gov/applications/glac/infobull/closures.cfm>. Specific closures are listed at the end of this Fact Sheet.

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

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Other Fires in Glacier National Park:

1. The Waterton Lake Fire was detected on the west side of Waterton Lake in Glacier National Park on August 14th. A Canadian Type-2 short team and helicopter responded. This 25-acre fire is 70% contained. No further growth is anticipated. 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.
2. The Reynolds Creek Fire on the east side of the park is experiencing some smoldering and hot spots within the fire perimeter and is in patrol status. For information on the Reynolds Creek fire, please visit <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4405/#>.

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

Flathead National Forest Granite Fire

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

Fire Information: (406) 387-4854 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Approximate Size: 39 acres

Containment: 0%

Fire Update:

The Granite Fire is west of Marias Pass, south of Hwy. 2 and southeast of Glacier NP in the Great Bear Wilderness. It was detected on Sunday, Aug. 16. It is burning in very steep country in a mixed conifer forest below a ridge. The fire had minimal activity Tuesday with creeping and smoldering. Crews are encountering numerous snags that need to be dealt with for safety before engaging. Because of difficulty with access, firefighters are camping out. The Granite Creek Trail (#156) is closed (details below).

Flathead National Forest Sheep Fire

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

Fire Information: (406) 387-4854 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Approximate Size: 73 acres

Containment: 0%

Fire Update:

The Sheep Fire is about 3 miles south of Essex in the Great Bear Wilderness. It was detected on Saturday, Aug. 15. It is burning in very steep country with difficult access. The fire has minimal activity early with creeping and smoldering and increases somewhat in the afternoon with single tree torching. Smoke jumpers and 2 crews are constructing line with support from helicopter water drops. Crews are looking to construct a helispot for crew transport. Because of difficulty with access, firefighters are camping out at the fire.

Fire managers are initiating preliminary structure protection analysis for the Essex community. A public meeting is scheduled for 7 pm tonight the Izack Walton Hotel.

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Glacier NP/Flathead NF Fire Closures

Thompson Fire 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
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

Granite Fire Closure

Forest System trail 156 (Granite Creek Trail). From the trailhead at the terminus of FS Road 9634 to the junction of Trail 155 (the Big River Trail)

Glacier National Park Waterton Lake Fire Closures

Boulder Pass Trail from Francis Lake Campground to Goat Haunt
Boundary Trail from Goat Haunt to the International boundary
Waterton Valley Trail from Stony Indian Junction to Goat Haunt
Goat Haunt Shelter
Waterton River Campground
Kootenai Lakes Campground
Janet Lake Campground
Lake Francis Campground

Waterton Lakes National Park Waterton Lake Fire Closures

Lakeshore trail from the junction with Bertha Lake trail to Boundary Bay
Boundary Creek trail from Summit Lake to Boundary Bay
Pass Creek Day Use Area

The Waterton Shoreline Cruises boat is still running from Waterton to Goat Haunt with no back country access

Reynolds Fire 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

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