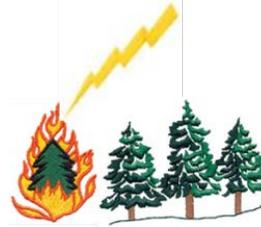


Thompson-Divide Complex

Northern Rockies Type II Incident Management Team
Irv Leach Incident Commander

Daily Fact Sheet Aug. 19, 8:00 a.m.



Resources - Total Personnel: 129 **Injuries:** None
Hand Crews: 1 Wildland Fire Management Module
1 Helitack Crew

Structures Lost: None
Air Support: Helicopters (1 Type-1 & 1 Type-3)

The Thompson-Divide Complex is comprised of the Flathead National Forest Sheep and Granite Fires and the Glacier National Park Thompson Fire. The Team is prepared for an anticipated weather event involving increasing winds in the next 24-36 hours. Today and Thursday, weather will be warming and drying with increased winds. These conditions will likely increase fire activity with isolated and group tree torching. There will likely be an increase in smoke production that may be seen from local communities. A mobile fire retardant base has been ordered and single engine tankers are being ordered.

Flathead County is currently under Stage I Fire Restrictions. Stage II Fire Restrictions are set to go into effect across northwest Montana Thursday, Aug. 20. This includes no campfires and outdoor burning, smoking only in areas cleared of flammable materials, vehicles restricted to designated roads and trails, and no operation of internal combustion engines, blasting, or welding from 1:00 pm to 1:00 am. 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 air quality Info.

Sheep Fire, Flathead National Forest Link to <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4468/>

Approximate Size: 73 acres **Containment:** 0% **Fire Information:** (406) 387-4854 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Fire Update: The Sheep Fire is about 2.5 miles south of Essex in the Great Bear Wilderness of Flathead National Forest. It was detected on Saturday, Aug. 15. It is burning in very steep, difficult access country. The fire had minimal activity early with creeping and smoldering and increased somewhat in the afternoon with single tree torching on Tuesday. Smoke jumpers and 2 crews are constructing line with support from helicopter water drops. Because of access difficulty, firefighters are camping at the fire. Crews will continue line construction today.

Residents of Essex and surrounding communities are advised to prepare their property and themselves because of the proximity of the fire. Take personal responsibility. Create defensible space around property by clearing brush. Assemble emergency supplies and belongings in a safe place. Plan escape routes and make sure everyone knows the plan. Fire managers are initiating preliminary structure protection analysis for the Essex community.

Granite Fire, Flathead National Forest Link to <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4468/>

Approximate Size: 39 acres **Containment:** 0% **Fire Information:** (406) 387-4854 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

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 line construction. Because of difficulty with access, firefighters are camping near the fire. The Granite Creek Trail (#156) is closed.

Thompson Fire, Glacier National Park Link to <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4468/>

Approximate Size: 13,820 acres **Containment:** 0% **Fire Information:** (406) 314-1669 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

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 are camped out and working in the Nyack Creek drainage. 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. For more specific visitor information, please see official websites <http://www.nps.gov/glac/index.htm>.

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.