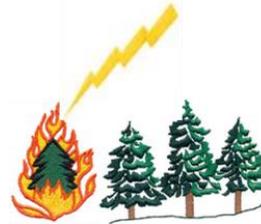


Thompson-Divide Complex

Northern Rockies Type II Incident Management Team
Irv Leach Incident Commander

Daily Fact Sheet Aug. 19, 7:00 p.m.



Resources - Total Personnel: 212

Injuries: None

Structures Lost: None

Hand Crews: 3 20-person, 1 Wildland Fire Management Module (10), 1 Helitack Crew (10)

Air Support: Helicopters (1 Type-1 & 1 Type-3), **Engines:** 3

The Thompson-Divide Complex is comprised of the Sheep and Granite Fireson Flathead National Forest and the Thompson Fire Glacier National Park. The predicted weather event involving increasing winds arrived today mid-morning. The plan that was in place allowed the team to respond in an orderly, controlled way. Thursday, weather will continue warming and drying with gusty winds. These conditions will likely increase fire activity with isolated and group tree torching and potential spotting. There will likely be an increase in smoke production that may be seen from local communities. A mobile fire retardant base is in place for use by helicopters. Northwest Montana including Flathead County will be under Stage II Fire Restrictions starting at midnight tonight. This includes no campfires or 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 Information. A new fire start was detected in the Charlie Creek drainage. Smoke jumpers and helicopters responded quickly to work on containing this 5 acre fire. **A Red Flag Warning will be in effect on Thursday from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm because of low humidity and high winds.**

Sheep Fire, Flathead National Forest

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

Approximate Size: 93 acres

Containment: 0%

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

Structures At Risk: 200+structures, BNSF has several wooden snowsheds and 1 wooden trestle

Structures Lost: None

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 August 15th, burning in very steep, difficult terrain with no access. The fire was very active early today with the predicted winds from the west which caused our suppression crews to disengage because direct operations were not being effective. Single engine air tankers made numerous drops of retardant on the Sheep Fire today. Helicopters were active in making bucket drops. Fire managers will reassess fire activity and weather tomorrow to determine if crews can reengage safely.

Portions of the Highway 2 corridor around Essex moved into the 'Set' Stage of the Ready, Set, Go evacuation strategy. Residents of Essex and surrounding area are advised to prepare their property and themselves because of the proximity of the fire. Flathead County Sheriff is informing residents of the potential for evacuation. It is recommended affected people load critical property and needs into their car. They should have an evacuation plan in place and make sure everyone knows the plan. Visit <http://www.wildlandfirersg.org/> for more information.

Granite Fire, Flathead National Forest

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

Approximate Size: 35 acres

Containment: 0%

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

Fire Update: The Granite Fire is west of Marias Pass and south of Hwy. 2 in the Great Bear Wilderness. It was detected August 16th burning in very steep terrain in a mixed conifer forest below a ridge. The fire was totally smoked in today to where firefighters could not safely engage or aircraft do any water bucket drops. Tomorrow, crews will try to reenter the area and determine the best plan of attack based on conditions they observe. Crews have been encountering numerous snags that need to be dealt with for safety before line construction. The Granite Creek Trail (#156) is closed.

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Thompson Fire, Glacier National Park

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

Approximate Size: 13,867 acres

Containment: 0%

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

Structures At Risk: 2 historic cabins

Structures Lost: None

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 drainage and west of the Continental Divide.

Crews are camped out and working in the Nyack Creek drainage. Crews have been successfully conducting burnout operations to help contain the fire by reducing fuels in avalanche chutes on the west side of the fire's perimeter. Tomorrow, this crew will focus on mopping up hot spots within the burnout operation. 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.

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