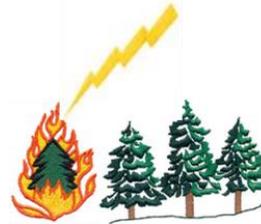


# Thompson-Divide Complex

Northern Rockies Type II Incident Management Team  
Irv Leach Incident Commander

Daily Fact Sheet Aug. 22, 8:00 a.m.



**Fire Information: (406) 387-4854/ (406) 314-1669, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.**

**Resources - Total Personnel:** 260

**Injuries:** 1

**Structures Lost:** None

**Hand Crews:** 4 20-person, 1 Wildland Fire Management Modules, 1 Helitack Crew (10), Smokejumpers (3)

**Air Support:** Helicopters (1 Type-1 & 2 Type-3), **Engines:** 11

The Thompson-Divide Complex is comprised of the Sheep, Granite, and Spruce Fires on Flathead National Forest and the Thompson Fire on Glacier National Park.

**Highway 2 is reopened as of 8 a.m. today, with pilot cars escorting traffic in both directions to ensure safe traffic flow through the fire area.** Call 511 or visit <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/alerts.shtml> for current road status.

Amtrak trains will be running today. For more information, on Amtrak call 1-(800) 872-7245.

**Stage II Fire Restrictions are in effect for Northwest Montana.**

**'Set' stage alert to residents and businesses in the vicinity of Essex for possible evacuation.**

A cold front with thunderstorms and some rain late yesterday cleared the smoky conditions in the area. The rain had some slowing effect on the fires. However, all fires continue to burn and fuels are expected to dry out today as temperatures rise and light winds pick up. Temperatures are predicted to rise back into the 80s starting tomorrow, with a possibility of reaching the 90s by Wednesday. Air operations are expected to resume today. A Sky Crane Type-1 Helicopter, capable of carrying a water load equivalent in weight to an F-550 truck, is scheduled to arrive today. A mobile fire retardant base is being used for helicopter bucket drops. Visit <http://svc.mt.gov/deq/todaysair/> for air quality info. Closures are in effect for some trails in the vicinity of the fires for Glacier National Park and Flathead National Forest. For more info, please see Glacier NP page <http://www.nps.gov/glac/index.htm> or for Flathead NF call Hungry Horse Ranger District (406) 387-3800.

## Sheep Fire, Flathead National Forest

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

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

**Approximate Size:** 428 acres

**Containment:** 0%

**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 is burning in very steep, difficult terrain with limited access. The fire spread northeast toward the Middle Fork and was about ½ mile from US Hwy 2.

Residents in the Highway 2 corridor around Essex remain in the 'Set' Stage of the Ready, Set, Go evacuation strategy. Residents of Essex and surrounding area are advised to prepare their property and themselves for possible evacuation. People should load critical property and needs into their vehicle in preparation. They should have an evacuation plan in place and make sure everyone knows the plan. Visit <http://www.wildlandfirersg.org/> for more information.

A night shift will be in place tonight to monitor fire conditions and spread.

## Granite Fire, Flathead National Forest

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

**Approximate Size:** 176 acres

**Containment:** 0%

**Fire Update:** The Granite Fire is west of Marias Pass and south of Hwy. 2 in the Great Bear Wilderness. It is burning in very steep terrain in a mixed conifer forest below a ridge. Crews have implemented structure protection measures on several backcountry cabins and trailhead structures and a wooden road bridge. Crews have been encountering numerous snags that need to be dealt with for safety before line construction. The Granite Creek Trail (#156) is closed.

## **Spruce Fire, Flathead National Forest**

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

**Approximate Size:** 3 acres

**Containment:** 95%

**Fire Update:** The Spruce Fire was added to the complex Aug. 19. The Spruce Fire is about 5 miles south of U.S. 2 at Bear Creek in the Great Bear Wilderness. Three smokejumpers and a 20-person crew worked on establishing control lines to contain this small fire. Crews expect to reach 100% containment today. Spruce Park cabin is a special concern on this fire.

## **Thompson Fire, Glacier National Park**

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

**Approximate Size:** 14,095 acres

**Containment:** 0%

**Structures At Risk:** 2 historic cabins

**Structures Lost:** None

**Fire Update:** The Thompson Fire 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 have made significant progress mopping up some edges from burnout operations earlier in the week to contain the fire. One 20 person crew is scheduled to be flown out today. 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 complex and is available for recreational use. Limited backcountry closures are in place. For more specific visitor information, please see the website <http://www.nps.gov/glac/index.htm>.

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

For information on the Reynolds Creek fire, please visit <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4405/#>

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