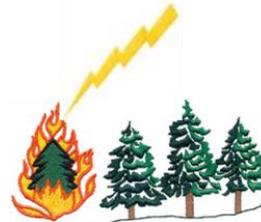


# Thompson-Divide Complex

Northern Rockies Type II Incident Management Team  
Irv Leach Incident Commander

Daily Fact Sheet Aug. 26, 8:00 a.m.



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

**Resources - Total Personnel:** 308

**Injuries:** 1

**Structures Lost:** None

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

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

**Engines:** 18

**Heavy Equipment:** 4 Feller Bunchers

The Thompson-Divide Complex is comprised of the Sheep and Granite Fires on the Flathead National Forest and the Thompson Fire in Glacier National Park. The Sheep fire is the incident priority as it is approaching US Hwy. 2 and the BNSF railway and is threatening the community of Essex.

**Highway 2 is reopened, with pilot cars escorting traffic in both directions to ensure safe traffic flow through the fire area.** Pilot cars will run 24 hours a day, but the highway could be closed due to changing fire conditions. Expect delays of 10-15 minutes. Call 511 or visit <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/alerts.shtml> for current road status. The BNSF and Amtrak trains are running. For more information on Amtrak call 1-(800) 872-7245.

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

**Residents in the Highway 2 corridor around Essex remain in the 'Set' Stage of the Ready, Set, Go evacuation strategy.** Residents of Essex and the surrounding area have been advised that they may be evacuated if the Sheep Fire becomes an imminent threat. They should have an evacuation plan in place and ensure everyone knows the plan. Visit <http://www.wildlandfirersg.org/> for more information.

Yesterday was another fairly quiet day on all complex fires due to the inversion keeping fire activity at a minimum. Isolated thunderstorms are expected for today through Friday. Winds may increase to up to 10 mph today, with the inversion possibly breaking in mid-afternoon. A cold front is predicted for Sunday that may bring some precipitation and higher winds on Saturday. Temperatures are on the rise through this coming week under an unusual high pressure, with 82-87 degree highs predicted in the valleys.

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:** 607 acres

**Containment:** 0%

**Structures Lost:** None

**Fire Update:** The Sheep Fire is about 1 mile south of Essex on the Flathead National Forest. It is burning in very steep terrain with limited access. Light fire activity yesterday allowed the continued movement of equipment to the fire area in preparation for removal of fuels. Burlington Northern Santa Fe trains will continue to transport firefighters to the fire area. Equipment has begun to build a shaded fuel break to the northeast of the fire, running between the train trestle and Essex following the river corridor. Helicopters will help with bucket drops when not hindered by low visibility. Logs being removed will be taken out by train to the Schellinger gravel pit for eventual removal. Goals are to keep this fire from going north towards Essex and moving into the transportation corridor along the Middle Fork of the Flathead River. The night shift continues to monitor fire movement.

-more-

## Granite Fire, Flathead National Forest

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

**Approximate Size:** 289 acres

**Containment:** 0%

**Fire Update:** The Granite Fire is west of Marias Pass and south of Hwy. 2 in and north of the Great Bear Wilderness. It is burning in very steep terrain in a mixed conifer forest below a ridge. Yesterday the fire backed down in all directions. Crews have implemented structural protection measures on several backcountry cabins, trailhead structures, a wooden road bridge and a radio repeater. Three engines will continue to monitor the fire and look for opportunities to build fireline when sufficient resources are available, with a helicopter supporting the fire today. Construction of a shaded fuelbreak using logging equipment in advance of the fire is planned unless conditions change.

## Thompson Fire, Glacier National Park

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

**Approximate Size:** 16,854 acres

**Containment:** 20%

**Structures At Risk:** 2 historic cabins

**Structures Lost:** None

**Fire Update:** The Thompson Fire is located in remote south-central backcountry of Glacier National Park about 15 miles east of the West Glacier entrance in the Thompson and Nyack drainage west of the Continental Divide. Firefighters inserted by helicopter back into the Nyack Creek Drainage continue to mop up. Pumps and hose lay are in place in case a future need arises.

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 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/#>

#####