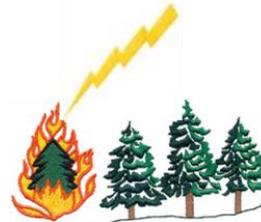


# Thompson-Divide Complex

Northern Rockies Type II Incident Management Team  
Irv Leach Incident Commander

Daily Fact Sheet Aug. 26, 7:00 p.m.



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

**Resources - Total Personnel:** 310

**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 open 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 close 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 northwestern 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.

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.

Weather conditions will be changing going into the weekend. A cold front is approaching and will drop temperatures Sunday. In advance of this front, winds are expected to increase by Friday and Saturday. Until then, smoke will persist over the area. There is a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms with this advancing front. Winds will be from the southwest increasing to 15-20 mph with gusts of 25-35 on the ridges possible on Saturday. With the passage of the front, temperatures will drop 10-15 degrees with an increase in humidity.

## 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:** 1,002 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 no road access. Fire activity continued to be limited by the persistent inversion during the morning and early afternoon today. Four feller-bunchers and two grapple skidders were transported to the fire area by Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway to start construction of a shaded fuel break from Sheep Creek to Dinkey Creek drainages. The objective of this fuel break is to reduce the fuel component and space the tree crowns to limit fire spread. It will also provide a safe location for firefighters if it is decided to burn out fuels in advance of the fire front. Helicopters continued to do water and retardant drops to check fire spread when there was enough visibility. This work will continue tomorrow. Equipment operations will start during the night to increase the amount of fuel break constructed prior to equipment crews stopping work in early afternoon for safety concerns. Aerial and hand ignition may be used to even fire spread above Sheep and Macdonald Creeks. Helicopter bucket drops are being used to limit active fire spread. A night shift continues to monitor fire movement and patrol the Essex area and Walton compound for any fire activity.

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## Granite Fire, Flathead National Forest

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

**Approximate Size:** 386 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. Crews have established locations for line construction and possible shaded fuel break when sufficient crews become available for their construction. Helicopter bucket drops are being used on the north end to help check fire spread.

## Thompson Fire, Glacier National Park

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

**Approximate Size:** 17,090 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 that were inserted by helicopter back into the Nyack Creek Drainage are doing some limited burning and continue to mop up. This operation should be completed tomorrow. 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/#>

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