

# Thompson-Divide Complex

Northern Rockies Type II Incident Management Team  
Irv Leach Incident Commander

Daily Fact Sheet Sept. 2, 8:00 a.m.



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

**Fire Complex Completed:** 32%

**Resources - Total Personnel:** 298

**Injuries:** 1

**Structures Lost:** None

**20-Person Hand Crews:** 2 Type-1 and 3 Type-2, 1 Wildland Fire Management Module (8), 1 Helitack Crew (10)

**Air Support:** Helicopters (2 Type-1 & 2 Type-3), **Engines:** 11 **Heavy Equipment:** 9

**Cause of Fires:** All three active fires have been determined to be lightning caused.

The Thompson-Divide Complex consists of the Sheep and Granite Fires in the Flathead National Forest and the Thompson Fire in Glacier National Park. The Sheep Fire is the incident priority due to its proximity to US Hwy. 2, BNSF railway and the community of Essex. Crews and equipment will continue to demobilize today as the need diminishes.

**The Essex area has been placed back in the 'Set' Stage of the Ready, Set, Go evacuation model.** Residents are advised to remain prepared to evacuate if conditions again warrant this action. For more information, call the Flathead County Office of Emergency Services at (406) 758-2111.

**U.S. Highway 2 is open with pilot cars escorting traffic between mileposts 176.5 and 185. Escorted vehicles are not allowed to stop in this area. BNSF and Amtrak trains are running.** For current road status, call 511 or visit <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/alerts.shtml>. For more information on Amtrak, call (800) 872-7245.

**Stage II Fire Restrictions are in effect for the area.** Visit <http://svc.mt.gov/deg/todaysair/> for air quality info.

Closures are in effect for some trails and areas in the vicinity of the fires for Glacier National Park and Flathead National Forest. For more info, see the Glacier NP page <http://www.nps.gov/glac> or for Flathead NF call Hungry Horse Ranger District (406) 387-3800 or go to <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/article/4468/28364/>.

Low pressure weather patterns will continue to affect the area thru the weekend. Today, temperatures will be in the 60s with humidity at 25-35%. Winds are out of the West-Southwest at 15-20 mph gusting to 30. There is a 70% chance of rain tonight. Continued minimal fire activity through the weekend is expected.

## 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 trestle, utilities infrastructure

**Approximate Size:** 2,171 acres

**Structures Lost:** None

**Fire Update:** The Sheep Fire is on the Flathead National Forest and burning in very steep terrain with limited access. The fire is about 1 mile south of Essex and about 1/8 mile from the train tracks between Tank Creek and McDonald Creek. The fire showed little activity yesterday. Firefighters continued to build fireline and put out hotspots in the Sheep Creek and Tank Creek drainages. Work on shaded fuelbreaks designed to create defensible space in the Essex area is complete. Logs and slash created by this effort are being moved to a safe location. Structural protection measures are in place in Essex. A night shift will continue to monitor fire movement and patrol the Essex area.

## Granite Fire, Flathead National Forest

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

**Approximate Size:** 913 acres

**Fire Update:** The Granite Fire is located west of Marias Pass and south of U.S. Hwy. 2. The fire started in the Great Bear Wilderness and has moved north out of the Wilderness. There has been little fire activity the past few days. Two engines and crews are using existing roads to monitor the fire's progress.

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## Thompson Fire, Glacier National Park

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

**Approximate Size:** 18,845 acres

**Structures At Risk:** 2 historic cabins

**Structures Lost:** None

**Fire Update:** The Thompson Fire is located in remote southern backcountry of Glacier National Park about 15 miles east of the West Glacier entrance in the Thompson and Nyack drainages west of the Continental Divide. A crew will continue removing hoses and pumps. Monitoring fire activity will continue with Aircraft.

Most of Glacier National Park is unaffected by this wildfire complex and is available for recreational use. Limited backcountry closures remain in effect for visitor safety. Visit <http://www.nps.gov/glac/planyourvisit/hikingthetrails.htm> for current information. **The Thompson Fire has not impacted park roads. The Going-to-the-Sun Road is open.**

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