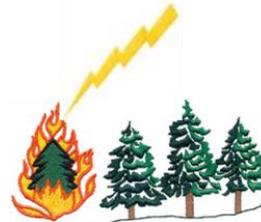


Thompson-Divide Complex

Northern Rockies Type II Incident Management Team
Irv Leach Incident Commander

Daily Fact Sheet Sept. 3, 7:00 p.m.



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

Fire Complex Completed: 38%

Resources - Total Personnel: 213 **Injuries:** 1 **Structures Lost:** None

20-Person Hand Crews: 2 Type-1 and 1 Type-2 **Air Support:** Helicopters (2 Type-1 & 2 Type-3), **Engines:** 4

Cause of Fires: All three 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 continued to demobilize today.

The evacuation order for the Essex area is being lifted on Friday morning. For more information, call the Flathead County Office of Emergency Services at (406) 758-2111.

Friday morning at 8:00 am the pilot car escort will end, with unrestricted travel on U.S. Highway 2. Motorists are cautioned to drive carefully because of fire traffic along this route. For current road status, call 511 or visit <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/alerts.shtml>.

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. As of Sept 1 all of the trails in the Two Medicine and Cutbank Valley are open, including the Dawson-Pitamakan Loop. The Cutbank Pass and Nyack area trails remain closed for visitor safety. For more information on Glacier NP closures, please see

<http://www.nps.gov/glac/planyourvisit/hikingthetrails.htm> or call 405-888-7800. An area closure around the Sheep and Granite fires on the Flathead National Forest is in effect. Call Hungry Horse Ranger District (406) 387-3800 or go to <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/article/4468/28364/> for details.

All three fires received widespread rain today, with snow reported further south. The Sheep and Granite fires had about 1/4-1/3 of an inch of rain. Low pressure weather patterns will continue to affect the area thru the weekend, with showers increasing tomorrow and Saturday. A total of 3/4 inch of rain may fall on the area. Maximum temperatures will be in the high 50s. Continued minimal fire activity through the weekend is expected due to wet, cool weather and increased fuel moisture.

Sheep Fire, Flathead National Forest

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

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 again today. Structural protection measures are being removed. Crews will continue to monitor and haul out equipment.

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. One engine and crew are using existing roads to monitor the fire's activity. Excess equipment is being hauled out.

Thompson Fire, Glacier National Park

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

Approximate Size: 18,847 acres

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. Aircraft will continue to monitor the fire.

Most of Glacier National Park is unaffected by this wildfire complex and is available for recreational use. **The Thompson Fire has not impacted park roads. The Going-to-the-Sun Road is open.**

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