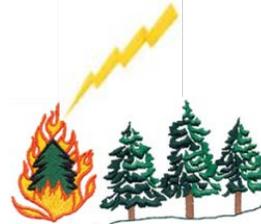


Thompson-Divide Complex

Northern Rockies Type II Incident Management Team
Irv Leach Incident Commander

Daily Fact Sheet Sept. 4, 7:00 p.m.



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

Fire Complex Completed: 58%

Resources - Total Personnel: 140 **Injuries:** 1 **Structures Lost:** None

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

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 camp crew has rolled up over 9 miles of hose line so far from the three fires.

The evacuation order for the Essex area was lifted at 8 a.m. today. All travel restrictions on U.S. Highway 2 related to the fires have been lifted. Motorists are cautioned to still drive carefully because of fire traffic along this route.

Stage II Fire Restrictions have been reduced to Stage I. However, all fire restrictions have been dropped in the Wilderness areas of Flathead National Forest.

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 (406) 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.

Rain showers are expected after midnight with a 100% chance of rain for tomorrow, and decreasing into 40-20% into Sunday. Cooler temperatures in the 50s are expected for tomorrow. Winds will pick up tomorrow afternoon. 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 have been removed. Crews will continue to monitor fire. Today there were rehabilitation efforts the fire.

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 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.

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.

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