

# Glacier National Park

## Sprague, Adair Peak and Elder Creek Fires



Wind Shift Expected Ahead of Cooler Weather

**Wednesday, September 13, 2017**

**Sprague Fire (5 miles northeast of West Glacier):** Yesterday, fire activity was light as it continued to flank to the north on Mt. Brown and make its way down towards Lake McDonald. Three water dropping helicopters kept hot spots in check on Mt. Brown near the lookout as well as on Snyder Ridge. Today, aircraft will be utilized along the southwestern flank of the fire to decrease intensity and limit fire spread ahead the anticipated wind event. Expect to see increased fire activity after 6pm as the weather changes and winds shift. The duration of this event should last until midnight. The fire is 14,795 acres.

**Structure protection work continues in the Lake McDonald Lodge and North Lake McDonald area:** Sprinklers and road spraying around the Lake McDonald Lodge complex increased the humidity and cooled the immediate area, creating a "rain forest" micro-climate. Pumps and hose lay systems have been installed in the Avalanche Creek Campground, Trail of the Cedars area and North McDonald Lake area. Crews will begin with structure assessment and protection in Apgar Village. Fuels reduction work around the historic ranger station is completed. The Wheeler Cabin is wrapped and firefighters have made good progress extinguishing hotspots around the Sperry Chalet complex.

**Elder Creek Fire (40 miles north of West Glacier on the US/Canada Border):** The fire will be monitored from the Tahoma lookout. The fire continued to show little movement yesterday as the prevailing winds blew the fire back into itself. The following trails are closed due to fire activity: Kishenehn Trail from the road to the Canadian border, Kishenehn Creek Trail from the Patrol Cabin to the border, and the Kintla Trail from Kishenehn Creek to Boulder Pass Trail (over Starvation Ridge). The fire is 282 acres in Glacier National Park (2,261 acres in total).

**Adair Peak Fire (18 miles north/northwest of West Glacier):** The Adair Fire continued to burn in the mixed conifer stands along Logging Lake. Structure protection around the patrol cabins will continue as pumps and hose lays are maintained. The Adair Fire is 2,890 acres.

**Smoke and Weather Conditions:** Smoke from other fires in Montana and British Columbia are contributing to the haziness in the area. Forecast models continue to show a weather pattern change towards wetter and cooler conditions by Thursday. You can monitor current smoke and visibility conditions at: <http://go.nps.gov/glacwebcams>.

**An evacuation ORDER is in place:** Area residents and park visitors were evacuated on Sunday, September 3, 2017. The evacuation order remains in effect from the south end of Lake McDonald north to Logan Pass. This includes the North McDonald Road. This does *not* include the Apgar area at this time. Logan Pass is still accessible from the east side of the park. The duration of the evacuation is unknown at this time.

**MOST areas of the park remain OPEN:** 18 miles of the Going-to-the-Sun Road between St. Mary and Logan Pass, Granite Park Chalet, Two Medicine, St. Mary, and Many Glacier are currently open. Please check the park website for closure information and current conditions at <https://nps.gov/glac>.

**Fire Information Phone:** 406-387-9092

**Inciweb:** <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5510/> (Sprague fire updates, maps, photos, and park webcams)

**Inciweb:** <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5590/> (Adair Peak fire updates, maps and photos)

**Inciweb:** <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5601/> (Elder Creek fire updates, maps and photos)

**Facebook:** <https://facebook.com/GlacierNPS>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/GlacierNPS>

**Montana Wildfire Smoke Updates:** <http://svc.mt.gov/deq/todaysair>