

FACT SHEET

Northeast Kootenai Complex

August 17, 2015 10:00 a.m.



Information Officers: Claire Pitner, Katie Knotek, Tom Rhode & Meg Nemitz

Fire Information Line: (406) 882-8308

Office hours: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Email: northeastkootenaicomplex@gmail.com

INCIDENT: Northeast Kootenai Complex (includes Barnaby, Marston, Sunday, Weigel and Dunn Fires)

AGENCY JURISDICTION: USDA Forest Service, Kootenai & Flathead National Forests; Montana DNRC, Libby and Stillwater Units.

INCIDENT COMMANDER: Shawn Pearson, Northern Rockies Type II Incident Management Team (IMT). The Incident Command Post (ICP) is located at the Murphy Lake Ranger Station.

WEATHER & FIRE BEHAVIOR: Weather today will be warmer and dryer than yesterday with a slight chance for thunderstorms in the vicinity of the Barnaby, Marston, and Sunday Creek Fires. Expect to see more active fire behavior with the warm, clear weather.

MARSTON & BARNABY FIRES:

The Marston Fire is 2000 acres and the Barnaby fire is 10 acres. Both fires are located near Eureka, MT on the Fortine Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest. Today on the **Marston Fire**, feller bunchers will continue to prepare line along the northwest and southwest sides of the fire. Structures will start being assessed in the Laughing Water Creek and Graves Creek areas for potential protection needs. A population protection plan has been created to determine when evacuations would take place in the vicinity of the Marston Fire **if the need arises**. A copy of the plan can be found on the Northeast Kootenai Complex Inciweb page. **No evacuations are currently in effect**. A hotshot crew hiked into the **Barnaby Fire** yesterday and determined that it was unsafe to put firefighters in the area due to steep terrain, falling debris and rocks, and snags. Today lookouts will monitor the fire, and if received, a heavy helicopter will drop water on the fire. A spot fire was located in the vicinity of Martin Lake yesterday afternoon. Initial attack quickly responded to the fire and a light helicopter made bucket drops on it. Crews continue to monitor the spot and secure line.

WEIGEL & DUNN FIRES :

The Weigel Fire is 100 acres and the Dunn Fire is 70 acres. Both fires are located near Libby, MT on the Libby Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest. Fireline has been established around the full perimeter of each fire. Today, firefighters will continue wetting along the fireline and into the fire perimeter.

SUNDAY CREEK FIRE:

The Sunday Creek Fire is 160 acres and is located on the Tally Lake Ranger District, Flathead National Forest and Fortine Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest. Firefighters will continue to secure existing line on the fire, snag hazard trees, and initial attack spot fires in the area.

PERSONNEL AND RESOURCES: 224 personnel, including 2 - Type 1 crews, 2 - Type 2 crews, 16 engines, 7 dozers, 1 excavator, 3 feller-bunchers, 6 skidgons and 6 water tenders.

SPECIAL MESSAGES/CLOSURES: An area closure is in effect for the Marston Fire and is posted on Inciweb. **A community meeting will be held on Tuesday August 18 at the Trego Civic Center at 7:00 p.m.**

For more information, visit: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>; Select "Northeast Kootenai Complex"