

FACT SHEET

Northeast Kootenai Complex

August 26, 2015 8:30 a.m.



Information Officers: 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, and Sunday 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: Temperatures in the upper 80s and very dry conditions will continue today with light winds (6-8mph) from the southwest. Thunderstorms are predicted for later in the week with high winds and possible lightning.

MARSTON FIRE:

*Lifting of the smoke layer late yesterday afternoon increased fire activity into the evening. The fire burned north towards Deep Creek and a large column of smoke was visible to the valley. The fire has not crossed Deep Creek and the fireline held throughout the night. **No evacuations are in effect at this time.** Residents are asked to stay informed of changing fire conditions. A population protection plan is still in place for residents living near Laughing Water, Deep and Grave Creeks, and a copy of the plan can be found on the Northeast Kootenai Complex Inciweb page (link listed below).*

The Marston Fire is estimated at 3,400 acres with 5% containment. About eight miles of fireline has been constructed on the west side of the fire from Deep Creek to near Sink Creek. On the south side, crews will continue to check the fire's edge as it backs down towards the fireline near Martin Creek. Fuel breaks continue to be constructed to the east towards Stillwater State Forest. Firefighters are assessing areas for direct attack on the north side of the fire today.

SUNDAY FIRE:

The Sunday Fire located about four miles southeast of Stryker, MT, is 60 acres with 100% containment and will remain in patrol status. **There is no longer a threat of evacuation for local residents in the vicinity of the Sunday Fire and the Population Protection Plan will be removed from Inciweb August 27, 2015.**

BARNABY FIRE:

The Barnaby Fire is located about four miles northeast of Eureka in steep, rugged terrain. The fire is being monitored from the air with bucket drops from helicopters when possible. Fire remains 42 acres, 0% containment.

PERSONNEL AND RESOURCES: 309 personnel including 1 Type -1 crew, 5 Type - 2 crews, 14 engines, 4 helicopters (2 Type – 1 Chinooks, 1 Type - 3), 6 dozers, 9 water tenders, and 4 skidgines.

SPECIAL MESSAGES/CLOSURES: There is an area closure for both the Martson and Barnaby Fires. **The Marston Fire Area Closure has been updated to include Murphy Lake. Murphy Lake is now closed to the public for the safety of both firefighting equipment and the public, as helicopters dip out of Murphy Lake for water drops on the Martson Fire.** See Inciweb for maps and explanations of these closures.

The Incident Management Team will have a booth at the Lincoln County Fair and will be staffing it Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Residents in Lincoln County interested in signing up for reverse 911 or "**Code Red**" can visit this website for further information: <http://www.lincolncountymt.us/>

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