

FACT SHEET

Northeast Kootenai Complex

August 27, 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: Weather today will continue to be hot and dry with temperatures in the upper 80s and relative humidity in the teens. Winds will be 6-8 mph from the southwest, with gusts up to 18 in the afternoon. There is also a slight chance of thunderstorms late afternoon. Fire behavior will increase if the smoke lifts and winds develop.

MARSTON FIRE:

The Marston Fire is estimated at 4,700 acres with 5% containment. The fire increased 1,000+ acres over the last couple of days due to natural fire growth and small burnout operations between the fire perimeter and the indirect fireline. An infrared flight last night provided for more accurate mapping for the fire and locations of isolated heat. Active fire behavior yesterday limited the firefighters' ability to conduct direct attack suppression efforts on the north side of the fire. Feller bunchers are being used to finish indirect line construction on the north along Deep Creek. On the fire's west side, crews continue to blacken and secure fireline to the south. In addition, fuel breaks are being constructed south of the fire and east towards the Stillwater State Forest.

SUNDAY FIRE:

The Sunday Fire located about four miles southeast of Stryker, MT, is 60 acres with 100% containment. Some heat and light smoke was detected on the Sunday Fire yesterday. An engine will be in the area today to patrol for any additional hot spots. **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 today.**

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 50 acres, 0% containment.

PERSONNEL AND RESOURCES: 331 personnel including 3 Type -1 crews, 3 Type - 2 crews, 14 engines, 3 helicopters (2 Type – 1 Chinooks, 1 Type - 2), 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 includes closure of Murphy Lake 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"