



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yellowstone National Park

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Yellowstone National Park Fire Update

July 19, 2010 – 1:00 p.m.

BEACH FIRE

Reported: Sunday morning, July 18, 2010
Location: 7 miles west southwest of the Bridge Bay Campground
Cause: Undetermined
Current Size: 150 acres – 0% Contained

Today's Activities: The fire grew very little over night and again this afternoon gusty thunderstorm winds are expected to progress across the area. The increased afternoon winds associated with the thunderstorms will most likely continue to move the fire into the crowns of the trees and cause it to spread. Helicopters will continue to cool the hottest spots of the fire with water bucket drops as crews. The Helena Hot Shots arrived this morning to join the firefighting efforts.

Due to several factors including location, fuel, and weather conditions, the decision was made Sunday morning to suppress the fire.

As the start of the fire season in Yellowstone National Park coincides with the peak visitation season in the park, fire managers will try to be respectful of the impacts that large fires and smoke have on our visitors. Visitors should expect more fire starts as the season progresses and fuels continue to dry. The park is at moderate fire danger at this time and visitors are reminded to be careful while enjoying the park.

Two helicopters from the Gallatin National Forest, an air tanker from Helena, Montana, and a second air tanker from Pocatello, Idaho, were called in to augment Yellowstone National Park firefighters and the park's contract helicopter in their efforts to suppress the fire.

The Beach Fire was discovered Sunday morning by an aircraft conducting a research flight. It started in an area of alpine fir, about two miles south of Beach Lake and seven miles west-southwest of the Bridge Bay Campground.

Monday's Strategies: The three helicopters and two air tankers will resume their suppression efforts Monday morning, and will be joined by the Helena Hotshots and the Lewis & Clark Hotshots. They will work to direct the fire into meadows and toward the west side of last year's Arnica Fire.

Monday's Weather Forecast: The forecast calls for a chance of afternoon showers or thunderstorms with gusty west winds, high temperatures in the upper 60s to low 70s, and humidity dropping Monday afternoon to 18-24 percent.

Park Impacts: There are no roads, trails, or campsites closed due to the Beach Fire. It poses no threat to park visitors. Smoke may be visible at times during periods of active burning.

Yellowstone National Park is a fire adapted ecosystem. Most fires that occur in the park are caused by lightning. Fire plays an important role in maintaining the health of the area's wildlife habitat and vegetation. These fires are managed to protect people and property, enhance the area's natural resources where appropriate, and safely and effectively use available firefighting resources.

Updated Information: Updates are available 24 hours a day by calling 307-344-2580, or on the web at <http://www.inciweb.org/incident/2025> and <http://www.nps.gov/yell/parknews/newsreleases.htm>.

- www.nps.gov/yell -

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