

# Fire Information

## Yellowstone National Park Fires

September 8, 2016 10:00 am

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Yellowstone National Park



## Burn Operations On The Maple Fire Begin Today

### Today's Key Points

- Today, firefighters will begin conducting burning operations on the Maple Fire east of the Madison River. The goal is to remove unburned fuel and prevent uncontrolled spread of fire toward the town of West Yellowstone for both this and future fires. Ignitions are likely to begin in the afternoon when fuels are dry enough to carry a fire. Residents and visitors should expect increased smoke and fire activity. The operation is planned to continue for a few days.
- A weak cold front is expected to move through the area this afternoon, bringing a change in wind direction to the northwest. Breezy, warm weather this weekend will create conditions for increased fire activity.
- A community meeting for the Maple Fire will be held at the LDS church, 245 Faithful Street, West Yellowstone, MT at 7:30 pm today.
- On the Buffalo Fire today, firefighters are continuing to work in the Slough Creek area to prevent the fire from crossing the Slough Creek Trail. Crews will be cutting down hazardous dead trees along the Buffalo Fork and Soldier's trails.
- Fire fighters continue to monitor the Fawn, Central, and Jasper fires. These fires have not increased in size over the last few days and continue to smolder and creep.
- With the planned burnout on the Maple Fire, expect noticeable smoke this afternoon in the Madison Junction area. Residual smoke is likely to drift into West Yellowstone overnight. Smoke may linger overnight in the area around Hebgen Lake and return with up valley breezes impacting West Yellowstone and Duck Creek areas tomorrow morning and Madison Junction tomorrow afternoon. Air quality will be GOOD today, with conditions deteriorating tomorrow in the Duck Creek, West Yellowstone, and Madison Junction areas. In these areas, expect conditions ranging from MODERATE to UNSAFE FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS tomorrow.

### What's Open:

- **All entrances to Yellowstone National Park are open.**
- Park visitor centers, concession-operated services, and businesses in surrounding communities remain open.
- The Harlequin Lake and Purple Mountain trails are open.
- Mount Holmes, Grizzly Lake, Winter Creek, and Trilobite Lake trails are now outside the closure area for the fire. However, trailheads remain closed due to road construction. Contact the Backcountry Office at 307-344-2160 for information on accessing these trails.

### What's Closed:

- The Bakers Hole area of the Madison River is closed due to the burnout operation on the Maple Fire.
- The Slough Creek Campground and surrounding area are closed due to the Buffalo Fire.
- The Mary Mountain Trail is closed due to the Central Fire.
- Visit the links below for the full list and maps of current backcountry campsite, trail, and road closures.

**Stage 1 Fire Restrictions Are In Effect.** Charcoal and wood campfires are prohibited in backcountry campsites, but are allowed in campgrounds and picnic areas. Visit the links below for additional details.

**Maple Fire: 41,136 acres** (no increase since yesterday) **Start Date:** August 8, 2016 **Cause:** Lightning  
**Location:** approx. 3.29 mi NE of West Yellowstone (Intersection of US HWY 20 & 287), 3.57 mi SW of Mount Holmes Lookout, 1.78 mi from Madison Junction

The east side of the fire has cooled and is no longer threatening Madison Junction or Norris. Fire crews have established control lines from the Transfer Station north to Gneiss Creek and to the ridge top south of Campanula Creek. Engines and crews continue to patrol the fire's edge.

**Buffalo Fire: 10,787 acres** (no increase since yesterday) **Start Date:** August 13, 2016 **Cause:** Lightning  
**Location:** approximately 3 mi NE of Tower Junction and 1.6 mi S of the park boundary

Firefighters are continuing to work on the east side of this fire in the Slough Creek area. The east side of the Buffalo Fire can sometimes be seen on the Mount Washburn Fire Lookout – Northeast Webcam at <https://go.nps.gov/YellowstoneWebcams>.

**Fawn Fire: 2,684** (no increase since yesterday) **Start Date:** August 4, 2016 **Cause:** Lightning  
**Location:** W of Fawn Pass, approximately 8.5 mi W of Mammoth Hot Springs, 16 mi NE of West Yellowstone, 10 miles SW of Gardiner, and 27 mi SE of Big Sky

The Fawn Fire remains unstaffed. Preparations for structure protection remain in place. The fire will continue to be monitored by air.

**Central Fire: 1,350 acres** (no increase since yesterday) **Start Date:** August 26, 2016 **Cause:** Lightning  
**Location:** a remote area, approximately 7 mi W of Lake developed area and 2 mi S of Hayden Valley

The Central Fire remains unstaffed. It will continue to be monitored by air. The fire continues to creep to the west and north into heavier timber. The Central Fire can sometimes be seen on the Mount Washburn Fire Lookout – South Webcam at <https://go.nps.gov/YellowstoneWebcams>.

**Jasper Fire: 0.1 acres** (change from yesterday due to improved mapping) **Start Date:** September 4, 2016 **Cause:** Lightning  
**Location:** 5.8 miles E of Tower Junction near Specimen Ridge.

The Jasper Fire is burning in a small group of trees and presents no imminent threat to park facilities. It is unstaffed and will be monitored. Fire managers do not anticipate any closures since this fire is burning in a remote area.

Park Fire Information: <http://go.nps.gov/YellowstoneFire>

Inciweb: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/unit/5382/>

Fire Information: 307-344-7102, [ynpfires2016@gmail.com](mailto:ynpfires2016@gmail.com)

Year-Round Yellowstone Road Conditions: 307-344-2117

