



Spice Lake Fire Fact Sheet

June 21, 2023

8:00 a.m.

MNICS Team B- Incident Commander Aaron Mielke

Fire Information: 218-248-7240 (8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.)

Email: 2023.spicelake@firenet.gov

Inciweb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-news/mnsuf-spice-lake-fire>

Superior National Forest: www.fs.usda.gov/superior

	Date Detected	Current Size	Containment
Spice Lake Fire	6/13/2023	22 acres	100%

This will be the last fire fact sheet from MNICS Team B for this fire. It has been turned back to the Superior National Forest for management. The next fact sheet will be issued on Friday, June 23, 2023

Summary: Late in the afternoon on June 13th, a wildfire was detected between Spice Lake and Ogishkemuncie Lake in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) on the Gunflint Ranger District of the Superior National Forest. Spice Lake is located east of Knife and Kekekabic Lakes and southwest of Seagull Lake, approximately 10 miles west of the Gunflint Trail.

Current Status: Fire activity is smoldering in mixed timber and brush. Fire crews continue to patrol the fire and mop up any remaining hot spots on the fire. Mopping up involves putting water on the fire, and using tools to mix it into the soil and duff to extinguish the heat until the area is cooled. Firefighter and public safety are the number one priority. The fire has been initially determined to be human caused and is still under investigation.

Planned Activity: Nine firefighters remain on site at the fire area. They continue to patrol and grid the fire area for smokes and mop up. Gridding is walking through the burned area in an organized pattern to seek out and extinguish pockets of heat and smoke. MNICS Team B has transferred command of the fire back to the Superior National Forest as of 6:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 21, 2023.

Closure Area: The Superior National Forest will release a new closure order for public safety later this morning for the Spice Lake Fire. Please visit [Superior National Forest - Alerts & Notices \(usda.gov\)](https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts-notice) for more information or the Superior's [Facebook page](#).

Fire Restrictions: The Superior National Forest has implemented a Forest Order (09-09-23-02) for campfire restrictions due to continued dry conditions and very high wildfire danger. This Order will remain in effect until further notice. See the [Superior National Forest website](#) for more information on fire restrictions.

Business Update: No businesses along the Gunflint Trail have closed due to the fire and are ready to help with trips and services. If you have an upcoming reservation, please contact your guide or cooperator or the Superior National Forest with questions.

Cooperating Agencies: Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Department, National Park Service, and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.