



NORTHERN ROCKIES TEAM 9 INCIDENT COMMANDER: SHANE MARTIN

Bee Top Fire

Idaho Panhandle National Forests, Sandpoint Ranger District

Fire Information 1-208-953-7021 2023.beetop@firenet.gov

<https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/incident-information/idipf-bee-top-fire>

July 10, 2023

Location: 5 miles up Lightning Creek Road on Bee Top Mountain

Start Date: 7/1/23 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 37 acres **Containment:** 16%

Total Personnel: 148 **Engines:** 2 **Helicopters:** 3 **Hand Crews:** 4

Yesterday, crews completed laying hose along the Lightning Creek indirect fireline, which runs northeast from the ridge to the southwest of the fire to the avalanche chute to the east of the fire. On the southwest ridge, indirect line was tied in from the river bottom to the mid-slope spike camp. Saw line was completed from the mid-ridge spike camp up to the tree line, allowing crews to dig handline and finish the indirect fireline from the river bottom to the Bee Top ridgeline.

Scooper planes and helicopters also continued to cool the interior of the fire, allowing crews to safely construct indirect fireline near the ridgetop on Bee Top Mountain. Helicopters also backhauled garbage away from the mid-ridge spike camp to clean up and mitigate bear encounters.

With the potential for severe weather coming in today, last night crews were pulled out of the spike camp midway up the ridge on Bee Top Mountain. Weather may impact fire operations today and activities will largely focus on holding and improving indirect fireline and completing the last portion of handline up to the top of the ridge if crews are safely able to do so.

Initial attack (IA) crews will continue with home assessments to ascertain preparation needs and minimize damage to structures in the Clark Fork community. The IA group will also maintain readiness to rapidly respond to new fire starts caused by lightning within the fire area.

There are some archaeological sites within the fire area that crews are taking care not to disturb. These culturally sensitive locations are areas where Native American performed ceremonial activities. Crews are also working to protect bull trout habitat, installing screens to keep bull trout from entering hose intakes.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

The arrival of a cold front on Monday will bring a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Brief heavy rain, hail, and gusty outflow winds up to 55 mph are possible. Look for increasingly gusty post cold front winds from the west or southwest winds on the ridge top Monday afternoon through Monday night. A 20 percent chance of showers will linger into Tuesday.

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

There are currently no road or trail closures associated with the Bee Top Fire, however road, trail, and area closures may occur if the fire reaches pre-determined decision points, creating dangerous conditions. The public is urged to use caution and check Inciweb regularly for the latest fire information before recreating in the area.