



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 12, 2023

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

Start Date: 7/1/23 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 40 acres **Containment:** 16%

Total Personnel: 151 **Engines:** 2 **Helicopters:** 3 **Hand Crews:** 4

To date, crews have constructed 5.88 miles of handline on the Bee Top Fire. Yesterday, crews began engaging the fire directly. Moisture from the recent storm reduced fire behavior providing greater access to the fire perimeter. On the southwest flank, Klamath Interagency Hotshot Crew (IHC) located opportunities to construct direct fireline. The Plumas Interagency Hotshot Crew (IHC) accessed the fire laterally from the mid-slope spike camp to the west and identified an area to construct a helicopter landing zone above the fire. Mad River IHC began constructing handline to anchor in the fire perimeter on the south flank. To the south, Boise IHC finished hose lay preparations and began chipping operations on containment line along Lightning Creek.

Today, with contingency line completed to the south and west, crews will continue to employ direct engagement tactics on the fire's edge. Plumas IHC will prepare the helicopter landing zone, sawing and clearing brush. Mad River IHC will continue anchoring the southeast flank of the fire with handline, pushing up from the south flank to the north along the east flank. Klamath IHC will begin constructing fireline along the southwest flank of the fire and push line up the west flank of the fire. To the south, Boise IHC will continue chipping and prepare and test hose lays and pumps along the on contingency line to ensure they are ready for use should the need arise.

Direct attack on extremely steep and rugged slopes makes firefighting difficult and dangerous. Crews are taking measures to mitigate hazards and operate safely. Additional helicopter landing zones and saw line have been constructed to allow for quick medical extractions. A short haul helicopter is available for extractions in tight locations.

Helicopters will continue to provide bucket drops to keep fireline in check and allow crews greater access to the fire perimeter. Helicopters will also support crew operations out of the the mid-ridge spike camp, slinging in food and equipment.

Initial attack (IA) crew responded to a fire start yesterday and extinguished the fire. They will also complete remaining structure assessments around the Clark Fork community and maintain readiness to rapidly respond to new fire starts.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Another weak midlevel wave will move into the region on Wednesday, however most of the storms are expected skirt the fire to the north. Winds will be light on Wednesday morning with afternoon gusts around 15 mph. Fire behavior was minimal yesterday due recent precipitation, with backing creeping, and smoldering

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.