



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 16, 2023

Location: 5 miles up Lightning Creek Road on Bee Top Mountain
Start Date: 7/1/23 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 49 acres **Containment:** 66%.
Total Personnel: 124 **Engines:** 2 **Helicopters:** 3 **Hand Crews:** 3

Yesterday, Crews continued to secure fireline and mop up work along the fire control lines. Helicopters flew support to the fire by dropping water bucks on the North-Eastern flank of the fire. This flank still has residual pockets of heat near the fireline. Helicopters also supported crews on the hill by sling loading food, supplies, and blivets on to the fire. A blivet is a water holding bag that can be placed on rougher terrain and allows water to be gravity feed through a firehose. These blivets allow firefighters access to water in dry areas as well as being able to work the water and dirt together to fully extinguish hotspots.

In between helicopter missions an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Team was able to use infrared cameras to find hotspots along the fireline. The UAS team additionally looked for signs of heat outside the containment lines to help keep firefighters safe as they worked.

Today, the Klamath, Plumas, and Mad River IHC will continue to secure the fires edge and continue the process of mop up. Helicopters will continue to provide bucket drops to cool the fire and allow crews to have better access to the fire perimeter and support crew operations on the mountain. The UAS will continue to search for interior heat and hot spots.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Hot and dry conditions are expected through the weekend. A breakdown of the ridge will occur Monday that will bring very gusty winds to the fire. There is an 80% chance of gusts 25 mph or more Monday, and a 20% chance of gusts 35 mph or more.

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.