



INCIDENT COMMANDER: Kevin Barger ICT3
Graydon Galloway ICT3(t)

Midnight Fire

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest
Salmon River Ranger District

Fire Information Line - 208-935-6134

<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/idncf-midnight-fire>

July 25, 2023

Location: Forest Service Road (FSR) #284 (Elk City Wagon Road) 1 mile east of China Point, 3 miles Northwest of Pilot Knob near Mountain House Site

Start Date: 7/10/23 **Cause:** Lightning **Size:** 179 acres **Completion/Containment:** 25%

Total Personnel: 192 **Engines:** 3 Wildland Engines and 4 Tactical Water Tenders **Dozers:** 2 **Forest Masticators:** 2
Helicopters: 1 **Retardant Tankers:** As Needed **Hand Crews:** 5 on scene including 3 Interagency Hotshot Crews

CURRENT SITUATION

A local Type 3 Incident Command Team has assumed command of this fire as of Thursday, July 13. Heavy firefighting traffic is still expected to continue through the week on Forest Service Roads (FSR) #244, #284, and #1852 as resources continue to contribute to the suppression effort. Heavy equipment is being utilized to construct contingency line on FSR #1853 and #1855, and in Peasley Creek drainage area FSR #469 to #648. A fire camp is still established near McComas Meadows (Camp 58) to support the ongoing suppression efforts.

PLANNED ACTIONS

Direct attack, full suppression, continue with hand line on eastern and western sides of the fire and continue opening and assessment of existing road and trail systems for heavy equipment use.

WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Breezy conditions will continue each afternoon. Tuesday will benefit from cooler temperatures and slight increase in atmospheric moisture to have the better humidity, with Wednesday drying out a few percent. Fire behavior is moderate with torching, group torching, and creeping. Fire growth has been minimal over the last few days but could change with weather conditions.

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

There are currently no closures in place, but firefighting traffic is expected to be heavy along FSR # 244 (Lighting Creek Road) and FSR# 284 (Elk City Wagon Road) between China Point and Lytle Cow Camp, while suppression operations are taking place. Fire Management Officials urge the traveling public to please avoid this area both on the ground and in the air. There is a Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) in place over the Midnight Fire area for the safety of the aviation resources on scene.