



CSKT TYPE 3 TEAM

INCIDENT COMMANDER: ROB BERNEY

# Niarada, & Mill Pocket Fires

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

Fire Information: 406-647-0446 | [2023.Niarada@firenet.gov](mailto:2023.Niarada@firenet.gov)



<https://tinyurl.com/NiaradaMillPocketFires>

**August 22, 2023**

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**Location:** Niarada - 12 miles west of Elmo, MT | Mill Pocket: 3 miles West of Hwy. 28

**Start Date:** Niarada - 7/30/2023 | Mill Pocket – 7/30/2023    **Cause:** Lightning    **Structures Damaged:** 4

**Acres/Containment:** Niarada–20,365 acres, 100% contained | Mill Pocket– 1,869 acres, 100% contained

**Total Personnel:** 130 total    **Engines:** 4    **Aircraft:** Available as needed    **Hand Crews:** 1

## FINAL UPDATE ON THE NIARADA AND MILL POCKET FIRES

Barring any significant developments, this will be the final update for these fires. Both the Niarada Fire and Mill Pocket Fire are 100% contained.

Heavy equipment and hand crews continued suppression repair Monday but rain and deteriorating conditions made progress difficult. Crews, road graders, bulldozers and excavators will continue to repair and rehab areas that were impacted in efforts to stop the fire's spread. These suppression repair efforts include chipping or stacking limbs and brush that was cut to widen roads, rehabbing and covering dozer lines, and grading roads among other things in order to leave the sight as naturalized. There is an estimated 7-10 days of work left and CSKT Division of Fire personnel will take command of the operation Thursday morning.

Control lines have been tested through high wind and extreme heat with no threat of escape remaining. That said, there still is minimal fire within the interior of the fire's footprint and as the rain passes and fuels dry out, the sight of smoke and possible small, creeping fire is likely. It will take a season-ending event such as snow to truly put these fires out for good.

## WEATHER AND FIRE BEHAVIOR

Rain is likely today and Wednesday with thunderstorms possible. A drying trend is forecast the rest of the week and into the weekend. There still is minimal fire within the interior and as the rain passes and fuels dry out, smoke and possible small, creeping fire is possible. It will take a season-ending event such as snow to truly put these fires out for good.

## CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES

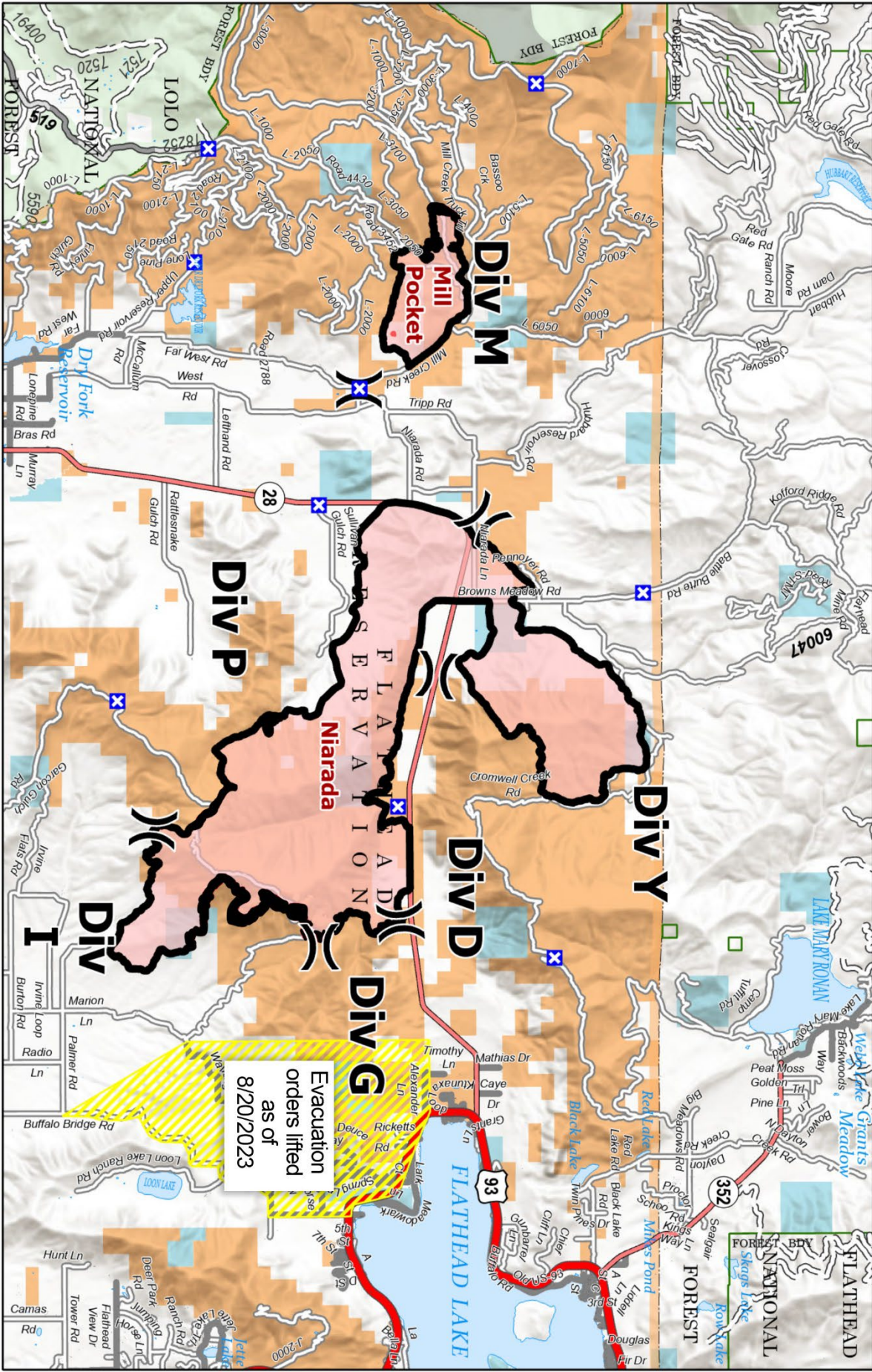
The Lake County Sheriff's office lifted the pre-evacuation warnings related to the Niarada Fire. All residents may bring their livestock back home.

The temporary flight restriction (TFR) has been lifted, as well. That said, do not fly unmanned aircraft (drones) near ANY fire area under any circumstance. Drones are hazardous for pilots, and the firefighters on the ground who rely on aircraft support. Remember, if you fly, we can't!

## FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Stage 2 fire restrictions are in place across the Flathead Indian Reservation as well as Lake, Flathead and Sanders counties. No campfires are allowed, no smoking outside of vehicles, no operating combustible engines from 1 p.m. to 1 a.m., no operating vehicles off designated roads and trails. Residents and visitors are encouraged to visit [www.MTFireInfo.org](http://www.MTFireInfo.org) for more fire information across Montana.

**Public Information**



**Niaraada** 20,370 acres  
**MT-FHA-000100**

**Mill Pocket** 1,869 acres  
**MT-FHA-000101**

- Road Closure
- American Indian Lands
- Evacuation Status - READY / SET
- Wildfire Daily Fire Perimeter
- Contained
- Forest Service Land
- Bureau of Land Management Lands
- State Lands
- Uncontained
- Division Break

