



**Northern Rockies
Incident Management Team 8**
*Brad Bergman,
Incident Commander*

FIRE INFORMATION

Phone: 406-426-9595

Email: 2023.bigknife@firenet.gov

Inciweb:



CSKT Division of Fire Facebook:



INCIDENT STATISTICS

Location: 5 miles east of Arlee, MT

Cause: Lightning

Fire Size: 6,958 acres

Containment: 7%

RESOURCES ASSIGNED

Crews: 5

Engines: 9

Water Tenders: 4

Heavy Equipment: 4

Total Personnel: 221

Big Knife

August 18, 2023, 9:00 AM MDT

The fire spread yesterday on the east side of the fire further into the primitive area resulting in a growth of 683 acres.

On the north edge of the fire, along Canal Road, crews are mitigating hazards and removing snags inside the fire perimeter at least a tree length from the line. On the south end of the fire in the Agency Creek drainage, crews will patrol and monitor fire activity. With pumps and hoses in place, they will continue to work on hotspots within the perimeter. On the east side of the fire near Jocko Lookout, crews will continue monitoring the pumps and sprinkler systems and monitoring the fire growth in the primitive area.

The Big Knife Fire is currently 1.25 miles north of the Rattlesnake Wilderness Boundary (Lolo National Forest) with no significant growth towards the Lolo National Forest in the last week. Smoke from the fire may impact the Snowbowl area, however the Lolo National Forest does not have any forest closures in place on the Missoula Ranger District.

CLOSURES AND SPECIAL MESSAGES: Several areas near the base of the mountains west of the Big Knife Fire remain in PRE-EVACUATION WARNING by order of the Lake County Sheriff. See the map for those locations in yellow (Jocko, Canal, Francis). The Tribal Primitive Area, Belmore Slough and Burnt Cabin Roads are closed.

A PRE-EVACUATION WARNING means you may be in your home. Individuals in this status should not bring back evacuated livestock until the area is downgraded to READY status.

A temporary flight restriction (TFR) is in effect around the fire area. Do not fly unmanned aircraft (drones) near the fire areas, as that is hazardous for pilots, and the firefighters on the ground who rely on aircraft support. Remember, if you fly, we can't!

Weather: Red flags warnings are forecast through today until midnight. Hot and dry weather is expected to continue until the weekend. Temperatures will be near 100 degrees in the valley with near 90 at higher elevations. Late afternoon winds are expected to be from the west and southwest gusting up to 40 mph.

FIRE RESTRICTIONS: Stage 2 fire restrictions are in place across the Flathead Indian Reservation. 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. Stage 1 fire restrictions are in place in Granite County. The following are prohibited until rescinded: Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire or campfire except within a developed recreation site or improved site. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials. Visit <https://www.mtfireinfo.org/> for more fire restriction information across Montana.

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