



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

### FIRE INFORMATION

Phone: 406-426-9595

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### INCIDENT STATISTICS

Location: 5 miles east of Arlee, MT

Cause: Lightning

Fire Size: 7,152 acres

Containment: 7%

### RESOURCES ASSIGNED

Crews: 5

Engines: 11

Water Tenders: 4

Heavy Equipment: 5

Total Personnel: 253

# Big Knife

August 19, 2023, 9:00 AM MDT

**A community meeting with updates on the Big Knife Fire will be held at the Arlee Community Center at 34086 Pow Wow Rd., Arlee, MT on Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 at 7 P.M.**

With temperatures and wind speeds moderated by heavy cloud cover, fire activity was milder than predicted. On the north edge of the fire, along S. Canal Road, crews are continuing to mitigate hazards by removing snags inside the fire perimeter at least a tree length from the line. Crews patrolling the area observed the fire backing down into the bottom of the Gold Creek drainage. On the south end of the fire in the Agency Creek drainage, crews are continuing to patrol and monitor fire activity. 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.

**Weather:** Temperatures will remain cooler with highs in the 70s and 80s on Saturday, with only a slight chance of rainfall. Remnants of Hurricane Hilary are expected to arrive late Saturday night, with the heaviest rains on Monday and Tuesday. Up to 1.5 inches are possible, while 0.50 to 0.75 is more likely.

**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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