



## Sandbar 2 Fire Update

August 22, 2025

Inciweb: <https://inciweb.wildfire.gov/mthlf-sandbar-2-fire>

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**Social Media:** <https://www.facebook.com/HLCNF>

**Acres:** 242 – **Containment:** 0% – **Detection:** 08/19/25 – **Cause:** Lightning – **Personnel:** 131  
**Location:** 15 miles east of Lincoln, Montana; north of Montana State Highway 279 and Flesher Pass

Northwest Complex Incident Management Team 8 took command of the fire at 7 a.m. this morning. Northwest Team 8 would like to thank the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest and local resources for the excellent work already done to set the incoming team up for success. The team will be providing assistance on both the Sandbar 2 Fire and any potential emerging incidents in the surrounding area.

**Operational Update:** Yesterday, crews worked up the eastern flank of the fire, constructing hand line in steep terrain. To the south, a combination of direct and indirect line provided a solid anchor point to build containment line from the fire's heel. Heavy equipment operated on the western flank of the fire, constructing dozer line with bucket-drop support from helicopters to slow the fire's progression. At the northernmost point of the fire, fire personnel and an excavator worked on building indirect line. There was a 15-acre spot fire to the west that crews were able to get line round. Aviation resources continued to be an asset on this incident, utilizing both retardant and water drops.

Today, firefighters and heavy equipment will continue to construct line, working to tie together the hand line on the northern side of the fire with mechanical line on the eastern flank. Crews will continue to install hose lays for mop-up work. To the south, fire personnel will continue to hold containment line. On the western flank of the fire, firefighters and heavy equipment will continue to strengthen and improve dozer line.

**Weather:** Today will be mostly sunny but with a cooling trend – temperatures should reach the low 80s in the valleys and low 70s at higher elevations. Relative humidity will be between 30 and 40 percent. Northeast winds expected to hit 15-20 mph at the lower elevations and 20-25 mph on the ridges.

**Evacuations:** There are no evacuation levels currently in place.

**Road and Area Closures:** The Lincoln Ranger District has ordered an area closure for public safety. Visit the fire's Inciweb page or <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r01/helena-lewisclark/alerts/sandbar-2-fire-area-closure> for details. Please be mindful of increased fire personnel on Flesher Pass Road #279 and slow down to protect firefighter safety. Please avoid stopping on the road or pullouts as this affects firefighter safety and operations.

A temporary flight restriction is currently in effect over the fire area for drones and private aviation. Remember, when you fly, we can't!